

## North denies Reagan's line on Iran swap

### Fears of hostages' death if operation was stopped

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration felt forced to go ahead with the arms swap to Iran, despite growing doubts that the hostages would be killed if the operation was stopped.

But he claimed that, from the start, it had been a straight arms-for-hostages swap.

Colonel North's admission

that the initiative was an arms-for-hostages deal was the first time a witness had said this during the hearings. However, the President himself said in March that the initiative had been a straight arms-for-hostages transaction.

Colonel North told the congressional hearings that he went ahead with the deal with

CIA chief praised

Medals battle

The cowboy colonel

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## That's him, vice woman tells libel court



Mr Archer and Miss Coghlan leaving court separately yesterday after she had pointed to him as the man who had sexual intercourse with her (Photographs: Denzil McNeelance).

## Archer had sex and paid for it, says prostitute

Miss Monica Coghlan pointed at Mr Jeffrey Archer in the High Court yesterday and said: "That's him."

The prostitute, aged 36, told a packed courtroom that Mr Archer paid her for sexual intercourse on the night of September 8/9 last year.

Miss Coghlan took centre stage on the fifth day of Mr Archer's libel case against *The Star* newspaper and its editor.

Mr Archer has denied ever meeting her.

Miss Coghlan, wearing a light grey suit and white shirt, spoke nervously and hesitantly as *The Star's* counsel, Mr Michael Hill, QC, asked her about that night.

Mr Archer's wife Mary stared intently at Miss Coghlan across the court, taking detailed notes as she gave her evidence.

Miss Coghlan, of Harebell Close, Shawclough, Rochdale, Lancashire, told how she went into an hotel in Victoria, London, with a man who another client, a solicitor named Aziz Kurtha, had told her was Jeffrey Archer, the well-known author and "MP".

She said the name had meant nothing to her. They had gone into room 6A in the hotel where she asked for her "present": her fee, previously arranged at £50.

She told the hushed courtroom: "I told him if he took some time and I took my time and made it a bit longer, it would be another £20. He agreed and gave me another £20 note."

It was at this time she was first approached by the man she identified in court as Mr Archer.

Full report, page 3

## Doctors' insurance to rise after £1m award

By Ruth Gledhill

Record damages of more than £1 million were awarded yesterday to a brilliant student "left like a zombie" because of a medical blunder. The award is likely to mean a substantial rise in doctors' insurance costs, the Medical Defence Union said.

The damages were awarded against three doctors after the High Court in London was told how Samir About-Hoss, aged 23, suffered irreversible brain damage because of negligent care after a successful operation in 1982.

The award of £1,032,000 is the first time that damages of more than £1 million have been awarded and is £353,000 higher than the previous highest award for medical negligence made in December 1985.

The damages, including a further £7,742 to the boy's

father for personal losses, are being paid entirely by the Medical Defence Union (MDU).

Dr John Wall, MDU deputy secretary, said yesterday: "The damages in this case set a precedent for others in the pipeline, and the size of the amount will necessarily have implications for increases in subscriptions, which will be announced in September."

The damages were against Mr Norman Grant, a consultant neurosurgeon at London's National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and two doctors at the same hospital, Mr Peter Crawford, a senior registrar, and Mr Zuhair Nouri, a registrar. They did not contest liability.

Mr Justice Hirst, who watched videos of the once-brilliant student at home, admitted that the award was

an "enormous sum". But he said the student suffered "catastrophic and irreversible brain damage" after the operation to remove a cyst from his brain when he was 19.

The judge added that there was also evidence that "deep within him, he has at least some insight into his own appalling predicament. His life has been reduced to a state which I can only describe as bordering on the sub-human."

The judge repeated a call made frequently by the judiciary for a review of the law regarding medical damages.

Samir was brain damaged during post-operative treatment when there was a build-up of fluid that put pressure on the brain. The problem was correctly diagnosed but incorrectly treated at the Italian Hospital in Bloomsbury.

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## Rolls-Royce set for £650m engine deal

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Rolls-Royce yesterday announced its biggest aero engine order since privatization on May 19 - a deal that could be worth up to £650 million to power jumbo jets for Australia's flag carrier Qantas.

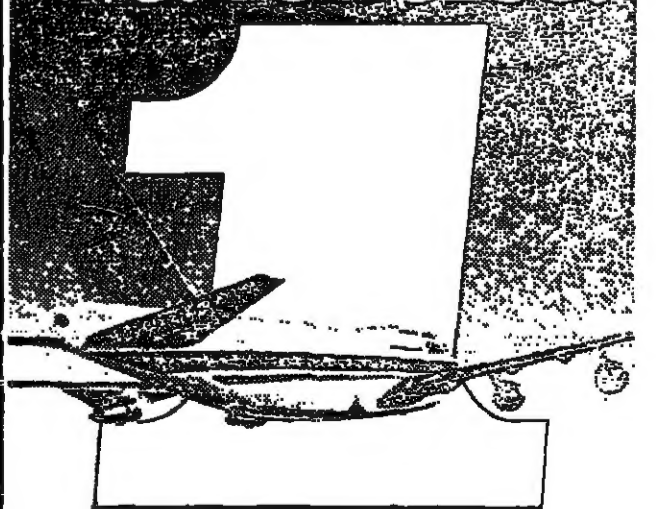
The order marks a significant strengthening of the potential of the RB-211 engine, ironically the product whose huge development costs brought about the company's downfall and subsequent Government takeover in 1971.

In spite of the success, Rolls-Royce shares fell by 2p on the Stock Exchange yesterday to 125p, reflecting market concern that Lufthansa would not select the V2500, an American-built engine in which Rolls has a 30 per cent stake, to power its Airbus A320 aircraft.

Rolls-Royce shares were

Continued on page 22, col 1

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## Abattoir ambush charges

By David Sapsted

A carpet-fitter from Beckenham, Kent, was remanded in custody yesterday by Woolwich magistrates after the alleged robbery attempt at a south London abattoir on Thursday, when police shot dead two armed suspects.

Richard Parfett, aged 24, of Kent House Lane, Beckenham, Kent, was remanded until next Monday on charges of conspiracy to commit a robbery, robbing a security guard and possessing firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life.

Wearing a yellow T-shirt and white trousers, Mr Parfett sat silently in the dock throughout the six-minute hearing. He had arrived at the court escorted by three police officers.

## Hawke gets late boost from polls

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Boosted by a late swing in the opinion polls, Mr Bob Hawke should become today the first Australian Labor Party leader to win a third term as Prime Minister, possibly with an increased majority.

But new surveys last night continued to confuse the picture, with an authoritative Morgan Gallup poll indicating that another Liberal surge had closed the gap to 2 per cent.

Labor's chances have been enhanced by discipline and organization over the final leg of a campaign in which endless debate and pervasive cynicism have tended to overwhelm the importance of the issues.

Labor goes into today's election with a 16-seat majority in the 148-member House of Representatives, but could be turned out of office by a uniform swing of 2.3 per cent to the Liberals and the National Party, with which they

would form a coalition. Polls published this week have been unanimous in predicting a Labor victory. Most have Labor ahead by between 4 and 6 per cent.

The 76 seats in the Senate are allocated on the basis of a complex quota system which is unlikely to bring about any dramatic shake-up in the

Controversy on fire

present composition. It is reasonably certain that whichever party forms the next Government will not have control of the Senate.

Of the newspaper leading articles which gave a lead to their readers most endorsed Labor, arguing that Mr Hawke's record of fiscal conservatism has earned him a third term, in preference to the drastic tax-cutting option offered by Mr John Howard and his untested Liberal front bench.

### Jumbos on collision course

## Second near miss in 2 days

From Charles Bremner, New York

For the second time in two days, two wide-bodied airliners narrowly missed colliding over the Atlantic on Thursday, increasing fears in the United States of a possible major disaster as air traffic builds up for the summer holiday season.

In the latest incident, 800 miles south of New York, a Pan Am Airbus carrying 91 people from New York to the Virgin Islands came within a few hundred feet of a Venezuelan Viasa DC-10 on its way to New York with 93 people on board. The two jets were in the same altitude and the same altitude.

In Thursday's incident, the Venezuelan pilot took evasive action when he spotted the

Airbus. He reported the miss as a quarter of a mile (1,3



## NEWS SUMMARY

## Love rival killer is jailed for life

A jealous student who stabbed to death his rival in love and two other men and then set fire to their bodies was jailed for life at Preston Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Sweeney recommended that Mahmood Hussain, aged 24, who admitted the triple murder, should serve at least 20 years of his three terms of life imprisonment.

His three student victims shared a house in Christchurch Street, Preston, Lancashire. He killed Peter Mosley, aged 21, from Cheshire; Staffordshire; Ejaz Yousaf, aged 23; and Tahir Iqbal, aged 21, both of Rochdale, Lancashire.

Mr John Huggill, QC, for the prosecution, said that at the end of last year Hussain's girl friend, Miss Dione Ganga, aged 21, also a student, became friendly with Mr Mosley. Hussain's jealousy grew and on March 2 he drove to Preston.

## Car find puzzle

Police in Hampshire have launched an investigation into the disappearance of Mr Gavin Hoare, a member of the celebrated banking family. He has not been seen for more than a week.

Suspicions were aroused on July 2 when the police found his abandoned red Peugeot estate car, which contained some personal items, in Micheldever, Hampshire.

Mr Hoare, a former missionary, aged 47 and single, who has no fixed home, failed to attend a bagpipe lesson and a dinner engagement.

## Jaguars recalled

Jaguar yesterday advised 1,600 owners of XJ6 saloons and XJS coupes to contact dealers to have replaced a switch which should automatically cancel the cruise control when the brakes are used.

The company said that only two owners had reported failure of the mechanism and there had been no accidents, but it believed the switches should be changed on all models.

In May Jaguar recalled 4,800 new XJ6 saloons after particles of metal were discovered in the braking system.

## Nigel West cleared

Mr Rupert Allason, Conservative MP for Torbay, will not be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act, the Attorney General announced yesterday. During last year's Australian spy book trial it was claimed that Mr Allason, who uses the pen name Nigel West, used classified information in his books.

In a written answer yesterday, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, had decided there was no evidence to justify proceedings.

## A happy return

A girl aged four whose life was saved by a liver transplant after passengers on an aircraft raised £45,000 in a whip-round will fly home to Israel tomorrow in the best of health.

In April, 450 passengers on an El Al flight bringing Moran Kadosh to London for urgent treatment raised the sum in minutes.

Doctors at King's College Hospital, London, feared she had only days to live. Then a liver became available and the transplant was carried out at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge.

## Chess surprise

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, scored an unexpected victory against St Paul's School, London, in the final yesterday of The Times British Schools Chess Championship.

The eventual score was three points to each team but Queen Mary's Grammar School gained the trophy on tie-break. Individual results, with Queen Mary's School names first, were:

Mark Wheeler beat Ali Mortazavi; Colin Smith beat John Gurney; Paul Burton beat Alan Cawston; and David Gell beat David Gell. The match was won by Queen Mary's School.

## Husain's secret visit

A security clampdown was launched yesterday to allow King Hussein of Jordan to present his son with his pilot's wings during a secret visit to an RAF graduation ceremony.

Armed guards, dogs and plainclothes detectives patrolled RAF Valley, Anglesey, as the king, who has long been a target for terrorists, and other members of the Jordanian royal family, watched Prince Faisal, aged 23, graduate as one of the top students.

The crown prince, Flight Lieutenant Faisal bin Husain, has just finished an advanced flying training course after two years with the RAF. He will retain his RAF rank but return home to Jordan.

## Health authority attacked for 'series of blunders'

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

A health authority was condemned by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday for "a series of appalling blunders" that greatly exacerbated the grief of a newly widowed woman.

The woman's husband died of a heart attack but his wife happened to mention to the hospital that he had more than three years earlier suffered from hepatitis.

Her revelation triggered a series of "panic reactions" by Dudley Health Authority in the West Midlands.

The authority, without observing any of the customary procedures, made two telephone calls to the woman in the small hours of the morning, ordered the removal of her husband's wallet, money, personal papers and photographs, and took the body of her husband and sealed his coffin, using yellow tape, thus denying the woman a last view

of the body.

It also despatched to the woman's home environmental health officers who, frustrated in their intention of burning the man's sofa, bed and bedclothes, fumigated the house, killing all the houseplants.

The Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, which shadows the Ombudsman, said in its report published yesterday that the precautions taken by the

health authority were unnecessary.

It says the "truculent" health authority compounded its errors by accusing the widow of mentioning hepatitis in the first place in an attempt to prevent the carrying out of a post-mortem examination.

The committee, chaired by Sir Anthony Buck, Conservative MP for Colchester North, interviewed the chairman of the authority, who produced no evidence to

substantiate the allegation.

It "found the authority's imputation of dishonesty on the part of the widow as a grossly offensive and shocking attempt to conceal its own incompetent performance".

The dead man's belongings were never seen again but the authority claimed that they were the responsibility of the coroner's office. The committee concluded that it was relying on "the undoubted confusion of responsibility in

some way to evade blame".

It also said that it was "profoundly displeased with the authority as much for its attitudes as the original mistakes... we very much hope that the authority will learn from this case, which involved a series of appalling blunders".

Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner for 1985-86 (Stationery Office, £9.30).

## Electricians deny sell out in no-strike agreements

By Roland Radd

The electricians' union rejected angrily yesterday accusations from Britain's largest trade union that they were selling workers rights for company patronage and relinquishing the role of shop stewards to management.

The allegations came from Mr Bill Morris, deputy-general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and echo attacks on the electricians by other unions.

Mr Morris said his union rejected the so-called "business unionism" of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union and accused the right-wing union of abdicating its responsibility to protect workers by signing away their fundamental right to strike.

Mr John Grant, EETPU communications officer, hit back: "We have heard it all before: it is the same old distortion of the truth. The abysmal loss of membership within the trade union movement is more to do with the short-sightedness of certain unions than anything to do with our single-union deals".

Both unions agree that the trade union movement is facing a serious crisis as the loss of union members continues unabated. If the movement is not to be atrophied then unity is essential. But there were two reasons which led the mild-mannered and articulate Mr Morris to attack the EETPU.

First, the TGWU is incensed at losing members to the electricians in companies which recognize the EETPU as having sole negotiating rights.

The TGWU often competes with electricians for the single-union deals, which the Trades Union Congress leader, Mr Norman Willis, disdainfully calls "beauty employee contests". But the TGWU normally loses because it refuses to sign a no-strike clause.

This is the second and perhaps main reason for Mr Morris's ire. "The right to strike is a fundamental right of

democracy and no one should have the power to withdraw it", he said.

The EETPU is quick to rebut Mr Morris's charge by insisting that a ballot is always held before any single union no-strike clause is signed.

But Mr Morris rejects this claim explaining the difficulties involved in balloting a site where the workforce has yet to materialize.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union, with just under a million members, is also criticized for its pendulum arbitration deals, which so far as the TGWU is concerned are no-strike deals by another name.

"Pendulum arbitration signs away the rights of working people to a third party, abdicating responsibility to management", Mr Morris says.

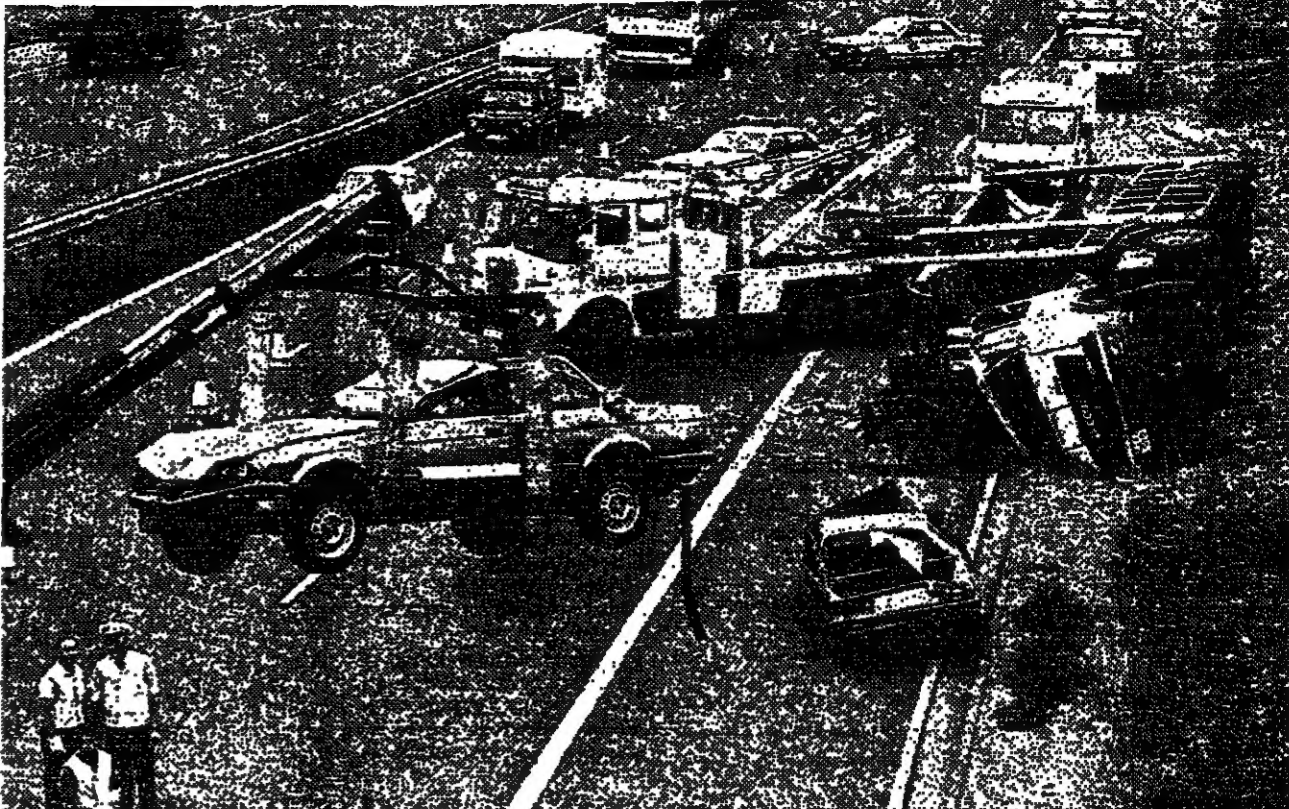
But Britain's largest trade union will not add its voice to those of other left wing unions such as the Technical Administrative and Supervisory Staff who will be calling for the expulsion of the EETPU.

"Trade union solidarity is of paramount importance", Mr Morris says. "We aim to unify the movement which can only be done if unions stop poaching".

Pay talks resumed yesterday at the Japanese-owned Hitachi Hirwaun factory, South Wales, which was brought to a standstill on Thursday in spite of a no-strike agreement.

The joint management-employee board has reconvened to consider again a pay offer of a 5.5 per cent increase in basic rates plus 1.5 per cent for merit which was previously rejected.

The last time the joint board met it agreed on an 8 per cent basic pay increase, but this was refused by the company and in spite of a no-strike agreement with the electricians' union, workers staged a short sit-in in the works canteen, which ended after both union and company representatives assured workers that talks would resume at once.



Devastation on the M5 in Gloucestershire yesterday after a transporter was in collision with a family's broken down car on the hard shoulder. The lorry shed nine new BMWs. The family, Mr Cliff Cooper, his wife, Pat, and their two children, from Immingham, near Grimsby, escaped almost unscathed (Photograph: Paul Walters).

## Plumstead shooting

## Countdown to the abattoir ambush

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A series of police conferences and telephone calls at Scotland Yard on Tuesday began the countdown to the Plumstead police operation nearly 48 hours later and the shooting of three robbers.

After several weeks of surveillance and intelligence on a small group of criminals operating in south London senior detectives believed they had identified plans for an attack on the Securicor van at the abattoir.

One police operation had already been mounted at a car auction centre in Guildford, Surrey, but the raiders never materialized. Now they were believed to be ready to strike at Plumstead.

On Tuesday, during discussions at the Yard and offices of No 9 regional crime squad in south London the police decided they would catch the robbers in the act. Codenamed Operation Kin Craig, it would be a classic ambush carried out along well-practised lines.

Senior detectives contacted commanders of PT17, the new name for the Yard's D11 firearms specialists, which has its administrative headquarters at Well Street, east London. The detectives believed the raiders could be heavily armed and they might need expert support.

The regional crime squad and the Yard's robbery squad includes officers trained in the use of firearms but the police plan for an ambush operation was classed as a "level one firearms operation", which meant that PT17 took over the main responsibility for firearms.

Authorisation for the deployment of the PT17 officers was given during Tuesday and arrangements began for briefings. The abattoir had to be discreetly reconnoitred so that

detailed maps could be provided for briefings to make sure everyone would know the lie of the buildings.

These took place on Wednesday as officers from PT17 and detectives discussed how the police would be deployed. The police decided they would hide within the abattoir rather than woods opposite since it was believed the robbers would come from that direction.

Up to 40 police were to be involved in a strategy which included hiding a number of men inside a hired van placed near the loading bay where the Securicor van would park. During Wednesday arrangements were made for the van to be put in place.

Call signs for the radio network had to be agreed. The man in charge on the ground would be Det Supt Alan Goodman from the regional crime squad.

Early on Thursday morning the police began to deploy on the ground in readiness for the operation. Weapons were brought down from the PT17 armoury and issued to the police arriving as dawn broke.

Detectives made their way from the regional crime squad offices in East Dulwich. Others came from the Walton-on-Thames offices of a second regional crime squad, No 6, who would provide an outer security screen during the operation. These officers would all be unarmed.

By 6am the police were in position. Lookouts were posted to pass on the approach of the Securicor van and the raiders.

As the van appeared shortly after 8am the police tensed themselves in their hiding places. Within minutes they would know if their plan would work.

## Family call for inquiry

The family of one of the armed robbers shot dead by police at the Plumstead abattoir yesterday called for a public inquiry.

Three of the brothers of Nicholas Payne accused the police of deliberately luring the gang into a trap and killing them. "There is not supposed to be a death penalty in this country, but the police are beginning to impose their own", said Mr Martin Payne who lives in south London.

He described the dead man as a lovable rogue who had been in and out of prison for a string of minor offences since he was a teenager. He had only once used any sort of weapon. When he was 14 he used an airgun to hold up a boy scout.

The family said they would not be satisfied with the inquiry already announced by the Police Complaints Authority.

Mrs Leslie Flynn, whose husband Michael was the other man shot in the raid, was expected to fly home from a continental holiday to the flat in Catford, south London.

## Crews in high risk for little reward

By Andrew Morgan

Raiders have stolen more than £7 million from security vans and vaults this year.

The attempted raid at Plumstead, south-east London, fits the classic pattern of Thursday wages snatches, although companies are varying their deliveries.

Crews remain tense over Thursday cash-in-transit deliveries. Two weeks ago, a man armed with a revolver demanded cash from a crewman of a Security Express van in London.

The crewman refused to hand over the money and was shot from short range. He is still in hospital with serious injuries to the upper legs.

An average of one crew a week at Security Express, Britain's second biggest cash and bullion carriers, is confronted with threats of physical violence.

The most notorious was in 1984 when Mr James Alcock, aged 62, a vault security guard, was covered with petrol and forced to hand over his keys during Britain's biggest cash robbery at the company's headquarters. About £6 mil-

lion was taken.

Injuries, armed hold-ups and fatalities have all increased in the past 10 years. Insurance payments have also spiralled dramatically, and, in spite of a big increase in turnover, have put a dampener on profits, particularly in London.

At Securicor, Britain's biggest bullion and cash carrier, and the firm involved in Thursday's shooting, a total of £1.54 million was stolen in 169 raids on vans in 1983. The number of attacks last year rose to more than 300 with more than £3 million in cash stolen.

Sir Colin Woods, chairman of the British Security Industry Association, admits that some security firm employees have provided information to robbers in the past. "It would be naive to assume they haven't been tempted", he said.

The industry's wages are not big and those attracted to the job are prepared to risk the inherent dangers for low pay. They include former policemen and soldiers.

## Alliance pro-merge protest

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

Mrs Rosie Barnes, the SDP MP for Greenwich, and the organizer of Dr David Owen's anti-merger campaign, registered a number of official party complaints yesterday about the tactics of pro-merger supporters.

As she did so, Mr Alec McGivan, manager of the "Yes to Unity" campaign, protested that full-page advertisements placed by the anti-merger group in two national newspapers yesterday violated the spirit of the campaign.

The "Yes to Unity" group, by way of retaliation, published a list of 100 SDP councillors who had declared support for a merger with the Liberals.

Mr McGivan said that it was easy to concoct "glossy adverts", but the list of councillors was evidence of concrete support and "a significant indication of the current mood in the SDP".

Mr David Steel continued his campaign yesterday to dispel the merger fears of Dr Owen's supporters by reiterating his commitment to the social market, an idea associated with Dr Owen.

He said in Oxford that there had to be a balance between the rewards of the entrepreneurial system and the wellbeing of all. "Thatcherism and socialism cannot strike that balance. Only the Alliance can use the energy of the market for the benefit of everyone."

Mrs Barnes criticized the apparent use of local party membership lists by the pro-merger camp to distribute letters.

In defending the placing of the anti-merger advertisements, she said: "To an extent we felt that the silent thousands of SDP members were confused and had to hear our point of view directly".

## New coach safety standards

By Rodney Cowton  
Transport Correspondent

New safety standards are to be introduced within the next few years for British coaches.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic, yesterday laid before Parliament new regulations.

They will require all new single-decked coaches registered in Britain from April 1, 1990 to be built to a new European safety standard governing the strength of coach roofs.

In addition, from that date, double-decker coaches will be required to be fitted with a means of escape in both halves of the upper deck. The regulations also require that from October next year seat belts should be fitted on most front passenger seats and centre rear seats. There has been a generally downward trend during the past 10 years in fatalities in buses and coaches, with the number of passengers killed declining from 105 in 1975 to 31 in 1985, and drivers killed falling from 10 to 1.

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## Libel action

# Prostitute points to Archer and says: I had sex with him

By Paul Valley

Miss Monica Coghlan, the prostitute at the centre of the scandal which forced the resignation of Mr Jeffrey Archer as deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday stood in the witness box in the High Court and pointed him out as the man with whom she had had sexual intercourse.

She appeared as the first witness called by *The Star* newspaper in defence of an action of libel.

Earlier in the day Mr Robert Alexander, QC, had con-

cluded the case for Mr Archer. It had featured an angry and aggressive testimony from Mrs Archer, in bold contrast to her tearful and faltering appearance on Thursday.

**● You've hit the jackpot tonight — it's Jeffrey Archer, the well-known author ●**

But it also saw exposed, in relentless cross-examination by Mr Michael Hill, QC, counsel for *The Star*, a significant contradiction between the evidence given earlier by Mr Archer and that of the key witness called to substantiate his alibi.

Miss Coghlan, in a subdued grey suit and white blouse, gave evidence in low, nervous tones. She gestured with conviction when asked to point out the man who had been her client in the early hours of September 9 last year.

She pointed to Mr Archer and, when asked further to identify him, replied: "The gentleman in the red tie." Mr Archer looked down at the tie as if surprised.

She told the court how, using her working name of Debbie, that night she had been playing her trade in Shepherd's Market, just off Curzon Street, in Mayfair.

She had been wearing a black PVC skirt, fishnet tights and a chunky white jumper when Mr Archer approached her along a well-lit alleyway.

"He said, 'Hello, are you free?' And I answered, 'Yes'. I told him my fee was £20 and he said, 'Fine'."

She suggested they take a taxi to her hotel but he said he would get his car and asked her not to accompany him but to wait. He left for some time.

Meanwhile, she was approached by another client, Mr Aziz Kurtha. Thinking Mr Archer was not intending to return she went with him to her hotel in Victoria.

When she left the hotel with Mr Kurtha, she said, Mr Archer was waiting outside in a dark Jaguar.

When Mr Archer appeared Mr Kurtha took her on one side.

"He said, 'You've hit the jackpot tonight, Debbie. It's Jeffrey Archer, the well-known author ...', and said something about him being an MP."

In a voice cracked with nervousness, she said: "We went into the room. He took his jacket off. I asked him for my present. He gave me a £50 note. I suggested he take his time and I'd make it last a bit longer if he gave me another £20. He agreed and gave me another £20 note."

Mr Hill: "And then?"

Miss Coghlan: "Then we got undressed."

Mr Hill: "And then?"

Mr Hill: "What did he get for his money?"

Miss Coghlan: "Sex."

Mr Hill: "How long did it last?"

Miss Coghlan: "It was over very quickly."

Mr Hill: "About how long?"

Miss Coghlan: "With getting undressed and the act of sex, 10 minutes."

Afterwards, she said, because it was over so quickly, she suggested that he relax for a while and that they try again.

"Then I lit a cigarette and lay down on the bed with him. Because of what Kurtha had said I was a bit intrigued. I asked him what he did for a living. He said he sold cars."

Then Archer had jumped up from the bed and said he had to move his car. He disappeared. She prepared for his return, tidying her hair and make-up, but he did not come back.

The next week she was contacted by Mr Kurtha who

**● I asked him what he did for a living. He said he sold cars ●**

revealed he was a solicitor and asked her to speak to two journalists from *Private Eye*, she said. She was offered between £700 and £800.

"My reaction? I was terrified."

She began to find Mr Kurtha a frightening man. "I told him I wasn't interested."

The same night she was approached by a man she later found was a journalist with the *News of the World*.

## Wife's onslaught against Star editor sitting in court

Mrs Mary Archer clashed angrily with Mr Michael Hill, QC, counsel for *The Star* newspaper, on her second day in the witness box yesterday.

Within minutes of beginning her evidence she launched an attack on Mr Lloyd Turner, editor of *The Star*, who sat impassively at the front of the court.

After commenting on the newspaper's daily coverage of the trial, which is to be the subject of a plea for aggravated damages, she leaned over to the editor and said: "Mr Turner, your paper cannot keep a consistent line from one week to the next. How about that for your next headline?"

Mr Hill intervened. "She cannot be allowed to make speeches like that," he told the judge. Mrs Archer replied: "I have long been silent."

She was asked by Mr Robert Alexander, QC, for Mr Archer, how her husband could have told reporters that there might exist a photograph of him with the prostitute who he claims not to have met. Mrs Archer replied: "He said it had occurred to him that the

*News of the World* may have contrived some kind of meeting at some kind of public function."

She said that many people approached him in public to shake his hand, throw their arms around him or even kiss him. "Photographs are taken when he does not know the man from Adam or the woman from Eve."

She went on to demonstrate her distaste for the highly-detailed questioning of counsel for *The Star*. "I won't attempt the details, textual exegesis that seems to be the speciality of Mr Hill," she said, when asked to comment on reports of one meeting with journalists.

She countered angrily at one suggestion: "Very ingenious, Mr Hill."

Mr Hill: "Don't be rude, madam."

Mrs Archer: "Why not?"

Mr Hill: "If you think it's necessary to do so, then do so."

Mrs Archer: "I do."

Later, when Mr Alexander tried to intervene on her behalf, Mr Justice Caulefield told him "not to worry". He

said: "The jury may think Mrs Archer is looking after herself very well."

Three witnesses told the court that they had seen Mr Archer at the Caprice Restaurant on the night he was alleged to have met the prostitute.

However, Mr Terence Baker, a television and film rights agent, faltered when told that his evidence differed on one significant point from that which Mr Archer had given to the court.

Mr Baker said he had been asked on October 27 to testify in the matter. Mr Archer had said that this did not happen until mid-November.

Mr Baker was unable to answer several questions about the car which Mr Archer allegedly drove on the night in question, the clothes he wore, and the weather conditions.

He said he had no record of his meeting with Mr Archer that night, but that he had "remembered the date when it was put to him by Mr Archer's solicitor". He did not have a bill to prove that he had been at the Caprice because he paid by cash.

Mr Hill: "What would you say to the suggestion that it was not until mid-November that Mr Archer contacted you about this matter, and asked if you would make a statement?"

Mr Baker: "I'd say that was incorrect."

Mr Hill: "What if I said that that is what Mr Archer himself has said, what would you say?"

Mr Baker: "I'm sorry, that's not my memory of it."

Mr Hill said that this was because Mr Baker was not with Mr Archer on the evening in question.

The case continues on Monday.



Mrs Mary Archer and Mr Michael Hill, in court clash.

## Frigate's defences defended

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The latest British frigate, HMS Norfolk, was launched yesterday amid angry denials by the Royal Navy that the frigate could not defend itself against the threat of sea-skimming Exocet missiles.

Norfolk, the first Type 23 frigate, has benefited from the very latest technology to make it one of the quietest and most effective anti-submarine warships in the world. Launched

yesterday by Princess Margaret at the Yarrow shipyard in Glasgow, it is due to be in service in about two years.

Senior Royal Navy officers dismissed a suggestion that the frigate was vulnerable to sea-skimming missile attack because of a cost-cutting decision not to install a Phalanx rapid-fire gun system.

Norfolk is equipped with the Royal Navy's vertical

launch automatic Sea Wolf anti-aircraft and anti-missile system. The Phalanx would have added another £5 million to the overall cost of £150 million.

The Royal Navy said that a thorough investigation into appropriate weapon systems had been carried out, which took into account both today's threat and the projected threat in 10 or 20 years' time.

## First-time win pays for a holiday

The sole winner of the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000 is Mr William McLaughlin, aged 65, of Laleham Court, Woking, Surrey.

The recently-retired medical officer in Woking is planning to spend the money on a holiday and home improvements.

Mr McLaughlin, who is a

regular reader of *The Times*, and has been playing the competition since it started, said he was delighted with his windfall as he had not won anything before.

He said: "I think it will

probably go on a holiday for my wife and I as the children are grown up. Anything left over will go on a few home improvements."

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold,

*The Times*, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

# Last Flying Fortress sets out for home



The last Flying Fortress left in Europe takes off tomorrow from a British airfield for a final nostalgic flight home to the United States (Ruth Gladhill writes).

An original member of the B-17 Second World War fighter bomber's crew has been flown over from the United States by Continental Airlines, of Tunbridge Wells, with six other crew members to take the high-altitude Boeing "Thunder Bird", now

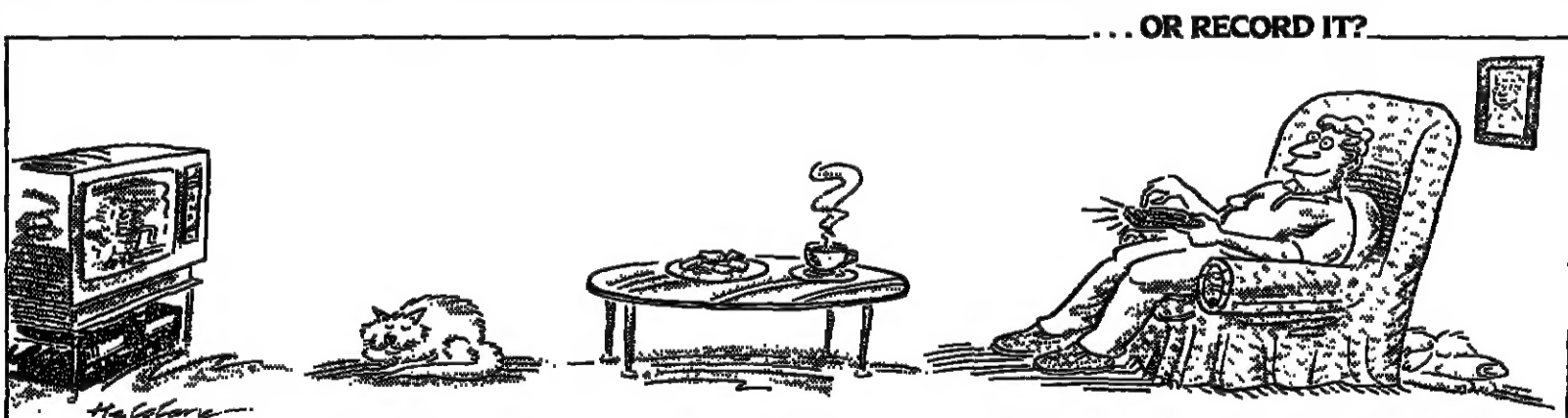
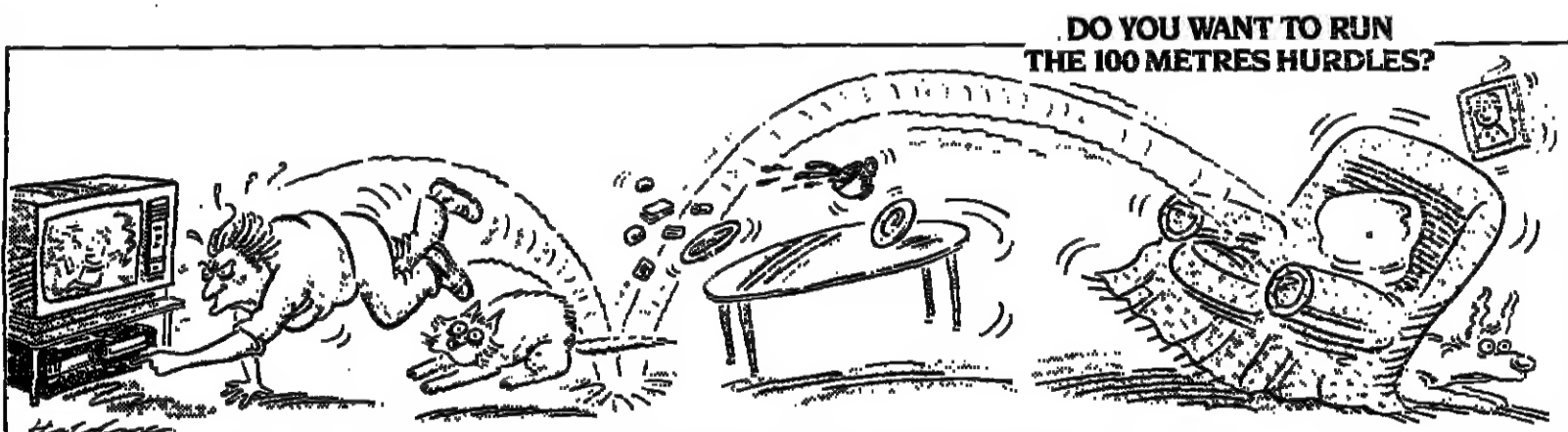
at Duxford airfield, Cambridgeshire, to its place of rest at the Lone Star Flight Museum in Houston.

The bomber, which was assigned to the 359th Bomb Squadron at Molesworth, completed 116 missions over Europe and went through eight sets of engines, was interned after the war.

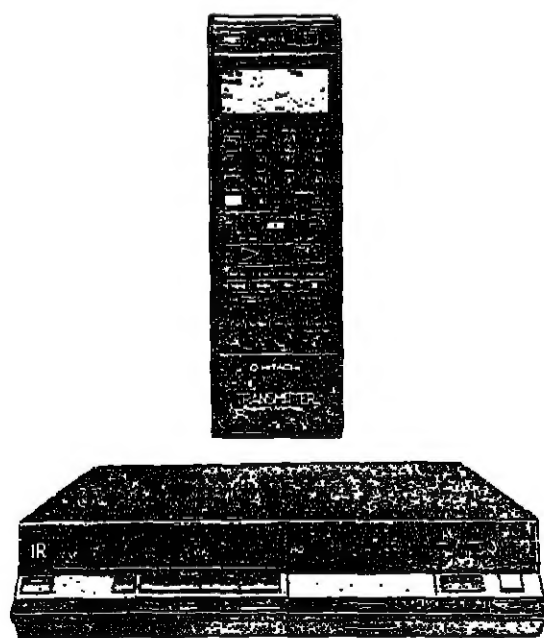
Mr Eugene Girman, who will be the radio operator for the flight home, flew his first combat mission in the olive-coloured bomber on July 20,

1944. A month later he was shot down over Germany while in another B-17 and spent the rest of the war in a German prison camp.

Mr Jeff Ethall, the co-pilot, said: "Recovery of this airplane is a dream come true. There is only one left in Europe that will ever return home and we're bringing her back where she belongs. If ever a piece of machinery deserved a hero's welcome, this one is it." (Photograph: John Rogers).



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# Scarman says inner cities must not be victims of politics

Lord Scarman issued a warning yesterday that soured relations between the Government and the principal local authorities must not stand in the way of inner city regeneration.

He said that whatever political differences existed, the Government had stated its determination to combat urban decay. It must be allowed to "prime the financial pump" and build on the advances already made by councils in cities such as Glasgow.

Unless that was allowed to happen, the Prince of Wales's vision of a partnership where local people could play an active role in planning housing, with business and the professions acting as "enablers", would be nothing more than a pipedream.

Lord Scarman, addressing the International Housing Conference in Glasgow, said that a "destructive opposition" against the Government's plans for the inner cities must not form, otherwise the very people they

are intended to benefit will ultimately suffer. He could understand the Government's lack of confidence in some key local authorities, but they happened to be the only local democracy we had.

"I warn the Government that their good ship, Partnership, could founder on the iceberg of local authority opposition", he said.

Lord Scarman, who is the United Kingdom president of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, said that principal aims for housing should be: to maintain in habitable repair what already exists; to construct new houses and flats; and to widen tenure.

He praised plans for Spitalfields, east London, involving the local authority, local people and developers, and the Government's proposed housing action trusts.

Another important task that lay ahead, Lord Scarman said, was to attract back the people who had left inner cities to improve their career and family prospects.

That could be achieved by the creation of real business and job opportunities in the inner city, and by providing the kind of housing which would attract the "young, upwardly mobile" people in society.

"We must ensure, of course, that the poor, the old and the disabled are not literally evicted to make way for the so-called yuppies. But, at the same time we need the upwardly mobile to live and work in our inner cities."

Lord Scarman added: "We cannot do without their vigour and enterprise. Our aim must be a mixed community in which the stronger and more affluent help the whole community along the road to prosperity."

"It is a problem of balance, but the rejection of the upwardly mobile would condemn inner cities to eternal ghetto status."

He did not doubt that if the British people showed willingness, then the Government would initiate the flow of private sector finance needed to do the job.

## New image for North-east

By Peter Davenport

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday helped to launch the Government regeneration programme for the banks of the rivers Tyne and Wear, which is intended to bring new prosperity to the North-east.

During the next six to seven years the Government will invest to £160 million into the area through the new Tyne and Wear Development Corporation.

Its aim is to clear up and revitalize the riverside once the home of the traditional shipbuilding and heavy engineering industries whose steep recent decline has left an unsightly legacy of decay.

It is intended that the development corporation will make the riverbank into highly desirable locations for new industry, housing and leisure use and thus attract private developers.

Yesterday Mr Ridley, who is from Tyneside, talked to the corporation chairman, Mr Paul Nicholson, and the chief executive, Mr Alastair Balls, who formally begin work on Monday.

He was taken on a brief tour of some of the sites in the Quayside area of Newcastle upon Tyne which have been earmarked for redevelopment. He was, he said, impressed.

"I think there is already a lot of interest and competition

among developers to get the sites."

The corporation had to decide how the money was to be spent during the next six to seven years but the large-scale redevelopment initiative would enormously increase the potential for new jobs on Tyneside, Mr Ridley said.

He said that there were many factors important to job creation such as good sites, marvellous amenities, good communications, low rates and "no bureaucratic nonsense".

Those conditions, he said, were present in Tyneside and all that was needed was an attitude among local people that they were going to make a great success of the city.

## Couple are cleared in abuse case

A Nottinghamshire couple won a court fight yesterday for the return of two of their four children who had been in council care after sexual abuse allegations. The other two will remain in care.

The children, aged two, five, 10 and 14 had been medically examined for Nottinghamshire County Council social services by a woman doctor who is a key figure in the Cleveland sexual abuse cases.

The judge cleared the family of responsibility for any sexual abuse.

After a two-week hearing behind closed doors in Nottingham Mr Kelvin Henderson, solicitor for the mother, who lives in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, issued a statement.

It said: "The judge has directed that the children remain with their mother. No matter should be mentioned whereby the wards or their parents may be identified."

"The judge has made a care order in respect of one child, a further interim care order in respect of another child and has directed the two other children should be returned home subject to a supervision order with the supervising officer reporting every three months to the judge."

"The judge has made no finding of sexual abuse by any member of the family. All parties agree that it is in the best interests of all concerned that there be no further publicity."

The parents had challenged the "anal expansion" test for child abuse used by Dr Jane Wynne, a progressive paediatrician at Leeds Infirmary, to identify sexual assault on their son aged 14 and three daughters.

A Cleveland father who is facing child sexual abuse charges yesterday agreed to his two children being taken into care. He will appear before Teesside magistrates on Monday.

Video recordings of child sexual abuse victims were shown in London yesterday to an audience which included Sir John Arnold, president of the Family Division of the High Court. The recordings are intended to help to reduce the court ordeal of the victims.

## Court told of slaughter

## Aids victim strangled four homosexuals in eight weeks

A hushed and often horror-stricken court No7 at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday how Italian-born Michael Lupo had confessed to strangling four men and attempting to murder two others in the space of eight weeks last year.

Sentencing Lupo, aged 34, to life imprisonment on all four murder charges, Sir James Miskin, Recorder of London, spoke of the "appalling background" to "this slaughter".

Lupo, pale and dark-haired, who has contracted the Aids virus stood impassively in the dock as the recorder emphasized that in this case "life means exactly what it says...I'm confident that you'll never be released until it is totally safe for the public at large".

The packed court had heard earlier that Lupo, an active homosexual with sado-masochistic tendencies, had inflicted terrible mutilation on three of his victims after picking them up in public houses or bars frequented by

London's gay community.

The fourth, a tramp whose identity is still unknown, was killed after he had asked Lupo for a cigarette on a bridge in central London.

As the prosecution outlined the case against Lupo, described as being "genuinely employed in the business of fashion, hairdressing and make up", the picture emerged of an intelligent but deeply disturbed young man whose disgust "at the way my life had worked out and what I had become" had turned him into a merciless killer.

Lupo's crimes were no more than a product of his sexual inclinations, the prosecution said. "In short, he enjoyed it at the time he did it."

At no stage in yesterday's proceedings did Lupo utter a single word besides his monotone "guilty" to all the charges. He received consecutive seven-year sentences for the two attempted murders.

The court was told that it was largely because of the "great courage" of one of

Lupo's intended victims, Mr David Cole, that he was finally apprehended after an intensive police operation.

Thanks to Mr Cole, Det Supt John Shoemaker said it had been possible to arrest the murderer far more quickly than expected.

Mr Shoemaker, who headed the investigation, also paid tribute to the "harrowing and difficult experiences" of his officers as they sought information in the alien, frequently hostile, gay circles of London. At the end of proceedings, the recorder also praised the police team's performance.

Before Lupo was sentenced, Lord Gifford made a brief statement for the defence.

It was the unanimous opinion of experts, he said, that his client did not suffer "from any recognized mental illness or personality disorder". From the murderer's own statements, it appeared that he had killed purely because "he started to feel revolted by what he had become".

## Police used 'live bait' trap

Michael Lupo was captured in a police operation which used one of his attempted murder victims as "live bait" after a number of lucky breaks for officers in what had begun to seem an impossible case.

In May last year, two murder inquiries were taking place in London. The first killing, of a railway worker, James Burns, was in Kensington, west London, the second, of an unemployed waiter, Anthony Connelly, was in Stockwell, south London.

Both were strangled and both were known homosexuals, but the two inquiries were not linked.

Investigators of both murders were trawling the twilight world of homosexual clubs, public houses and known "cruising" areas.

The team investigating the Connelly murder under Det Supt John Shoemaker met a

breakthrough when a British Rail worker, David Cole, was nearly strangled in a south London lorry park by a man he met in a gay public house.

He knew police were looking for a killer of homosexuals and rang Gay Switchboard, the advice service for homosexuals.

Detectives said Gay Switchboard advised him not to go to the police. It was only because he felt he should let police know that he persevered and rang the Kensington inquiry team. Gay Switchboard deny they would have given this advice.

A suspected victim would be encouraged to tell the police but advised first to see a solicitor and not go to the police station alone, a spokesman said.

Mr Cole was interviewed by detectives in the Kensington hunt but they did not believe it was linked to their case and sent the report to Kennington,

the station in whose area the assault happened. It was passed to the Connelly squad at Stockwell, near by.

Mr Cole said he could identify his attacker and was persuaded, in spite of understandable fears, to act as live bait. With two plain-clothes officers, and in radio contact with others near by, he agreed to visit the public houses where he cruised before meeting Lupo, including the one at which the killer picked him up.

Within five hours, at 8.30 on the night of May 15, last year, Mr Cole had seen and identified Lupo in the Prince of Wales, Brixton, and he was arrested.

Lupo, the officer said, remained calm and was led outside. During questioning, he admitted not only the Connelly murder but three others, including Burns's, as well as the Cole attack and another.

## Safety drive on builders

Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive, have uncovered a "horror's nest" of dangerous working conditions by raiding building sites in the Midlands and the South during the past 10 days.

More than 100 builders were served with restraining orders for offences ranging from asbestos pollution to failing to provide guard rails on scaffolding.

The raids spearheaded a new government campaign to cut building accidents. According to HSE officials, the construction industry has a steadily worsening safety record and more accidents than any other British industry.

Inspectors used their powers under the Health and Safety at Work Act to walk unannounced on to building sites and to take instant photographs of illegal or dangerous practices. Many of the restraining orders were issued on the spot, forcing builders to stop the offence immediately.

The health executive said yesterday that the tactics were justified because so many builders were systematically breaking the law in spite of repeated warnings.

The raids, which involved about 20 inspectors, focused on accident blackspot areas, mainly in Nottinghamshire and Bedfordshire. Doctor John Cullen, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, said yesterday that the raids would continue and that more inspectors were being deployed.

He also said that the executive was pressing to close loopholes in the law, which allowed some sub-contracting firms to evade responsibility for safety.

At the start of the campaign last month the HSE said it was determined to clamp down on a mushrooming problem. The main offenders are small to medium-size firms which are cashing in on the construction boom and the increasing trend towards sub-contracting instead of direct labour.

More than 100 construction workers died and more than 2,000 were seriously injured last year, the executive said.

## September concert series

The London Philharmonic is one of the world's greatest orchestras and seats for its concerts are among the most sought-after in the world.

So there should be intense interest in tomorrow's announcement in *The Sunday Times* of an unique series of 13 concerts at the Royal Festival Hall from September 10 to December.

The conductors are Sir Georg Solti, Bernard Haitink and Klaus Tennstedt. The soloists include Alfred Brendel, Maurizio Pollini and Benjamin Luxon in a repertoire which includes Wagner and Walton.

If you want to be sure of a ticket, look out for the booking form for these exclusive concerts which will appear in tomorrow's *Sunday Times* magazine.

The *Sunday Times* also continues its exclusive serialization of *Campaign: The Selling of the Prime Minister*, the book which reveals the secrets behind Mrs Thatcher's election. Author Rodney Tyler reveals the drama of the day which became known as 'Wobble Thursday'.

## Young solicitors back fee changes

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical proposals for ways to fund court actions, including the American-style "no cure no fee" came yesterday from the Young Solicitors' Group, which represents more than half the practising profession in England and Wales.

The group, solicitors under the age of 36, says allowing lawyers to work on a contingency "no cure no fee" basis would enable people who are excluded from the legal aid scheme to go to law.

In its discussion paper earlier this month the Law Society ruled out contingency fees as posing insuperable "ethical and consumer protection problems".

Instead the society has canvassed a range of measures, including "fixed costs" which would finance civil claims through a self-financing fund paid for by limited contributions from litigants.

But the Young Solicitors' Group says "contingency fees should be permitted unless the profession and public as a whole see overwhelming arguments against this means of funding litigation."

Such fees would enable proceedings to be taken where the person is eligible for legal aid but legal aid is refused because "the case would break new ground" and the fund is not prepared to embark upon a "test case" where it has a

pessimistic view of the outcome.

Second, it would enable people excluded from legal aid and with only small private means to bring cases, because losing would involve them in paying only an opponent's costs and not their own.

The group also favours a contingency legal aid fund - also floated by the Law Society - into which all successful litigants would pay a percentage of the damages.

The fund would pay out not only the costs of successful litigants, but also those of unsuccessful ones participating in the fund, including costs ordered against them. Such a fund should be run by an independent foundation, the group says.

Another source of funding litigation is legal expenses insurance. But policy holders should be given the freedom to choose their own solicitor without influence from insurance companies, it says.

The young solicitors criticize government proposals for standard fees for lawyers doing legal aid (see fees for the kind of work rather than payment by hourly rates).

The lifting of restrictions which stop solicitors forming partnerships with other professionals such as accountants or estate agents was called for by the Young Solicitors' group.

There had been a reluctance to accept this. The sadness is that we are still having to talk about it as if we are missionaries trying to take the message out to industry which should know it for itself.

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) said that the Opposition spoke consistently of increasing volume of production, but what was required was goods of the highest quality. In the modern world there was no point in having production geared exclusively to output. Without quality it was not good enough. Sir Geoffrey Finsberg (Hampstead and Highgate, C) said that the customer was king. If manufacturers did not produce merchandise of a quality or at a price that was acceptable, then that merchandise would remain on the shelves.

Mr Mark Wolfson (Severn-owsk) said that quality referred to a whole range of factors: design, technological innovation, reliability, delivery on time and after-sales service. Continual improvement in these areas was required.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that they should be talking about the quality of life as well as the quality of products. Profit, competition and capitalism were destroying everything that was decent and standing in the way of real quality.

## MP's protest at huge replica of Parliament

A proposal to build a huge replica of the Houses of Parliament on the south bank of the Thames between Tower and London bridges, was condemned by the local MP in a short Commons debate.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) said that, given planning permission, the "monstrously large" building on the Hays Wharf site would be as high as St Paul's and bigger than Parliament. He guessed that some visitors might take it for the Palace of Westminster.

"The cheek of the design raises issues, as well as the sheer volume."

Mr Marion Roe, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the application had been submitted to the London Docklands Development Corporation. It was unable to comment on it as that could prejudice the Secretary of State's consideration of any appeal or call-in that might come before him.

## Council rates

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in a written reply that he was rate-capping Lothian Regional Council and Edinburgh District Council.

## SAS flew radar mission for the Navy

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A full account of the Royal Navy's involvement in the Falklands conflict in 1982, which the Ministry of Defence held back from publication for two years, refers officially for the first time to one of the most secret operations of the war.

A Royal Navy Sea King helicopter from 846 Squadron was discovered crashed and burnt out on a sand-spit 10 miles east of Punta Arenas in Chile early on in the conflict.

There was instant speculation that the British were engaged in some covert operation against Argentina which had gone wrong.

At the time, the crew of three, who gave themselves up to the Chilean authorities, said they had lost their way in bad weather while reconnoitering the coast of Tierra del Fuego.

Running out of fuel, they had flown up the Straits of Magellan until they found a suitable landing area in neutral Chile.

However, the three crew members of the Sea King, who were deported from Chile before returning to the South

Atlantic, were all decorated after the conflict.

The pilot, Lieutenant Richard Hutchings, and the co-pilot, Lieutenant Alan Bennett, were awarded Distinguished Service Crosses. Leading Aircrewman Peter Imrie was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal.

Now a book by Mr David Brown, former head of the Ministry of Defence's Naval Historical Branch, confirms that the Sea King had taken off from the aircraft carrier, HMS Invincible, with her escort frigate, HMS Brilliant in tow, in unusual circumstances, with a heavy load on board.

Mr Brown, who was asked to write the account of the Royal Navy's experience in the conflict by the then Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff, discloses: "The Invincible was heading west at high speed, darkened and with all radars silent but ready for immediate operation should any Argentine radar transmissions be intercepted."

"During the night, when well to the west of the islands, the carrier increased speed, surpassed the best she had

exceeded on trials, to fly off a heavily-laden Sea King 4."

"The carrier and frigate then turned back to be well clear of the early morning reconnaissance missions before dawn."

Yesterday Mr Brown said that he knew what was involved in the Sea King operation but he was told he was not allowed to print any further details.

However he confirmed that reports printed at the time about units of SAS men being dropped on the mainland to destroy the Argentinian Super Etendard fighter aircraft which were armed with the deadly sea-skimming Exocet missiles were false.

The hints in the book, to be published next week, are the closest confirmation yet of the account which in the past unofficial sources have disclosed.

These sources have said that the Sea King was taking eight SAS men with electronic receiving and transmitting equipment to the mainland, to monitor Argentinian aircraft setting off for attacks on the

Royal Navy Task Force around the Falklands.

There was an urgent need to provide some form of pre-warning, as the British had no airborne early warning system throughout the conflict.

The SAS men stayed in their positions around the main Argentine air bases until Port Stanley was recaptured in June 1982 and, according to the sources, were taken off the mainland by submarine.

The sources said that as the crew were unable to fly back to the Task Force, the Sea King was deliberately set on fire, once it had landed safely in Chile, to look as if it had crashed.

Yesterday the Ministry of Defence confirmed that it had taken two years to clear the book for publication, "to ensure that no information of potential use to an enemy was included."

There were a large number of amendments demanded, including some deletions. *The Royal Navy and the Falklands War* by David Brown (published by Leo Cooper, £16.95).

July 10 1987

PARLIAMENT

## Japan the guide to quality

If current trends in United Kingdom industry and commerce could be kept going well into the 1990s, then talk of a British economic miracle would not be an exaggeration, Mr John Bether, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons during debate on quality in manufacturing and international competitiveness.

He said that in 1984 a team examining the reasons why British companies were being out-performed by overseas competitors had been devastated by its findings.

On asking a Japanese company why they were prepared to reveal all the secrets of their success, the team was told that it would take the United Kingdom 10 years to reach the same point, by which time the company would have moved on.

"Besides", they were told, "we know you won't do it."

That was a challenge that the Government had recognized and one that many companies were now responding to. The efforts of companies had been greatly assisted by the Government's achievements in improving the whole economic climate in which British companies operated.

"So the outlook is for continued growth and that outlook is good. In recent years,

productivity growth in the manufacturing sector has been the highest of the major industrialised countries and reflecting this improvement, the rate of increase in unit wage and salary costs has eased."

Manufacturing in particular would need to play a dominating role over the coming years.

Quality was vital. "The whole issue can be encapsulated in one sentence: It is about selling products that do not come back to customers that do."

Much progress had been made in many fields, and the quality of British goods had benefited, but more needed to be done.

Mr Alan Williams, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that British industry had to learn from the Japanese that an acceptance that quality really mattered led to improved productivity and reduced costs.

Quality must be a corporate endeavour with every individual in a firm being quality-conscious. That was a message the Japanese had successfully hammered home.

British industry had lost markets to competitors who started out with market research to find out what the customers wanted and then made sure they had the equipment to supply it.

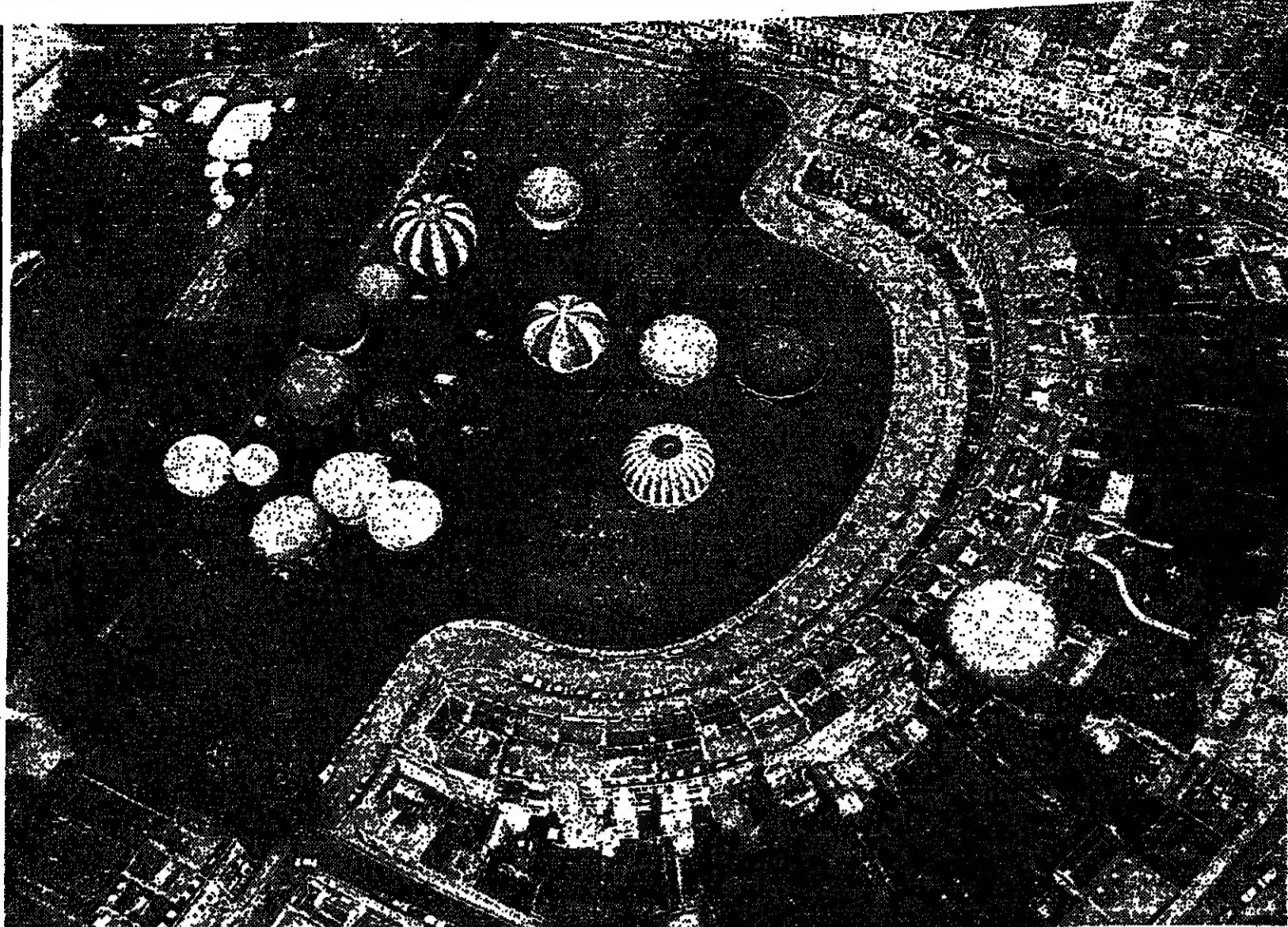
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Balloons over Royal Crescent, Bath, yesterday, seen from the Clarks Shoes balloon in the city's annual balloon festival (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

مكتبة الأمل



WORLD SUMMARY

## French 'yes' puts Moscow in a spot

French acceptance of separate talks on troop reductions in Europe has isolated Moscow's position. (Our Defence Correspondent writes). At the 35-nation European Security Conference in Vienna yesterday, Western countries proposed that two separate rounds of talks should be held on conventional arms: one between Nato and the Warsaw Pact members, and another between the 35 states, which include 12 neutral or non-aligned countries.

France and the Soviet Union had insisted previously on keeping the talks within the framework of the 35-nation Security Conference. However, Paris has accepted separate talks after the 16 fully integrated members of Nato agreed to give the French regular briefings on developments.

## Drug raid nets 577

Madrid — No charges have been lodged yet against seven Britons arrested in Alicante after drug raids across Spain, legal sources said yesterday. (Harry Debeilus writes).

The Britons are identified as Miss Julie Gibbs, aged 20, of Kingston upon Thames, a clerk; Mr Godfrey Anthony Fielding, aged 39, of London, who has been living in Malaga; Mr James Edward Brand, aged 34, of London, a building contractor; Mr Anthony Gary Dornay, aged 30, of London; Mr David John Chandler, aged 30, of Bexleyheath; and Mr Alan James Hawker, aged 38, a draughtsman, and his wife Caroline Susan, aged 34.

The Britons were among 577 people arrested throughout Spain this week.

## Nazi trial rejected

Bonn — West Germany would not extradite 16 alleged Nazi war criminals to face trial in the Soviet Union as demanded by President Gromyko, Chancellor Kohl said yesterday. (John England writes).

The sixteen names were given to President von Weizsäcker of West Germany — who is on a state visit to the Soviet Union — by Mr Gromyko on Thursday. The 16 are accused of having committed atrocities on Soviet soil.

Herr Kohl said that West Germany's Basic Law (constitution) forbade the extradition of West German citizens, and refused to comment further on Moscow's demand, saying that it was a matter for the West German justice authorities.

## Escaper's story

Valletta — Mr Louis Bartolo, aged 64, who escaped from a Maltese prison in 1982, gave himself up yesterday at Police Headquarters (Austin Sammut writes). At the time of his escape he had been awaiting trial for the murder of John Bondin, a well-known supporter of the Socialist Government. Mr Bartolo escaped in mysterious circumstances with a Palestinian also awaiting trial.

In an application filed before the Criminal Court shortly after his re-arrest, he asked the court to direct that he should not be detained in the Civil Prison, fearing reprisal from the director who, he alleged, he had paid to help him escape. The court ordered that he be detained temporarily at the Valletta police station.

## Chinese crop loss

Peking (Reuters) — A Chinese paper yesterday blamed negligent officials for big wheat crop losses in the week that agricultural sources predicted a fall in output through bad weather.

Officials in Henan Province ignored scientists' warnings that two strains of wheat were deteriorating from disease and pests, the *Peasants' Daily* reported, adding that crop losses so far were 414,000 tonnes.

As early as 1984 experts urged the province to stop using the wheat. But they were ignored, the paper said.

## Faroese bar US frigate

Thorshavn (Reuters) — The Faroe Islands said yesterday that a United States ship would have to leave its waters unless the captain could guarantee that it did not carry nuclear weapons.

The Government published a letter to the Danish Government demanding that the frigate USS McCloy, on a two-day courtesy visit here, be "ordered out of Faroese territorial waters."

The Faroes have home rule within the kingdom of Denmark. Both Denmark and the Faroes are in Nato.

## 438 strikers arrested

Johannesburg — In a police swoop on strikers on a bus depot, 438 black bus workers have been arrested, it was disclosed yesterday. The strike by crews employed by a company in the Vaal Triangle townships, including Sharpeville, 35 miles south of Johannesburg, forced thousands to walk to work yesterday. (Ray Kennedy writes).

Meanwhile, a man was shot dead and four people held in a police raid on a house in Cape Town's coloured area of Athlone. A heavy calibre firearm and Soviet-made grenade were reported to have been seized.

## Panama anger at protest ban

Panama City (Reuters) — The embattled Government of President Eric Arturo del Valle has again warned citizens of the three-day-old ban on public protests and ordered banks, offices, schools and government offices to stay closed or to shut early.

The statement from the office of the President was read on radio and television late on Thursday, hours before what opposition leaders promised would be the biggest show of dissent with the military-dominated Government since Panama was thrown into crisis early last month.

Hundreds of people in residential areas of the capital reacted to the warning by moving to windows and balconies to bang pots and pans in protest.

Public defiance and the failure of security forces to halt street demonstrations, have underscored the weakness of Panama's nominal head of government.

Thursday's statement said demonstrations were suspended indefinitely "to protect the citizenry following the discovery that extremist groups... have prepared acts of violence and attacks against the civilian population". The attacks, it said, were aimed at "provoking a state of anarchy and fomenting the necessary conditions for subversion and the overthrow of democratic institutions".

The political crisis erupted after an army officer accused General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's military chief and *de facto* ruler, of corruption, electoral fraud and political murder.

## Fed-up Soviet factory manager vents spleen

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Under the emotive headline: "Why work?" *Pravda* yesterday published a remarkable letter from a disgruntled Soviet factory manager containing some of the most outspoken criticism of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms yet to appear in the official media.

Mr M. Sergeyev, aged 44, the head of a workshop in the Urals industrial city of Sverdlovsk, complained angrily that he had devoted his life to industrial management, had recently altered his methods to fit in with the new Kremlin guidelines but was now being heavily penalized for the failure of his workers to produce quality goods.

The letter was seen as reflecting deep unease among the managerial class about the draconian system of quality controls ordered into operation by Mr Gorbachev. In a speech to the Supreme Soviet last month, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, pledged that efforts would be made to lessen the hardship these were causing.

Mr Sergeyev informed readers that in April quality inspectors had shown up unexpectedly in his workshop and imposed fines ranging from the rouble equivalents of £25-£100 on the managers of the workshop.

"Consequently, what can a leader who is directly creating the material values of the country earn today?" the manager asked sarcastically. "A heart attack. He can earn neither glory nor money."

The strength of the criticism and its prominent display in the party daily, surprised diplomats, one of whom described it as one of the clearest pointers to date of the extent of resistance among rank-and-file party members to the radical changes being introduced on the shop floor.

The Sverdlovsk manager explained that there was now much discussion about whether Lenin's famous dictum "To each according to his labour" would be able to triumph under the new conditions. He said that he had not received a single extra rouble for changing his work

## Partial text of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North's testimony to the hearing on the Iran-Contra affair.

Mr Arthur Liman (Senate majority counsel): Colonel, did you receive any formal training in conducting covert operations?

No, sir.

It was all on-the-job training?

That's a good way of putting it, sir. I got a lot of guidance, of course, from (CIA) Director Casey who is widely revered as an expert...

Did he (McFarlane) tell you that the Secretary of State (George Shultz) and Secretary of Defence (Casper Weinberger) ... were opposed to proceeding with the Iranians?

I do recall him mentioning specifically that both Secretary Shultz and Secretary Weinberger were not enamoured of the proposal. I do not recall him expressing their stringent objections.

Did he tell you that he wanted to go to London (in January 1986) to make his own assessment of Ghorbanifar?

Yes... I was with him when we met with Mr Ghorbanifar...

It was a bargaining by Ghorbanifar of weapons for hostages?

... It was clear that Ghorbanifar was trying to establish a price I found to be

## I don't believe I was the principal advocate

most unpalatable for a number of weapons for a number of Americans.

Did he (McFarlane) not tell you that he was going to recommend to the President of the United States that you have nothing more to do with Ghorbanifar?

... The outcome of that meeting was that, unless we could get beyond Ghorbanifar and establish direct contact with the Iranians, that this was probably not going to work in the long run, that we are not going to achieve our objectives, and I share that belief.

At the briefing that you had with the President, did he ask Mr McFarlane's opinion as to whether you should go forward? ... Was there any discussion about the fact that, having started down the road of dealing with Iran on arms, we were now coming back to that very process?

I always felt that way... Was there any discussion of the fact that, if we started selling them arms, that once we stopped we were going to run the risk that more hostages would be taken?

Yes, there was frequently discussion of that aspect of this whole initiative... But I believed then, and I still believe today, that had we been able to get to a point where we would have had a meeting with, for example, the Vice-President (George Bush) and Rafsanjani... that we could start working an outcome to the Iran-Iraq war,

which would then lead to a reduced need for this kind of thing to begin with.

And this is important, because much of the fact that I gave a tour of the White House to (an Iranian). One of my purposes for taking the second channel, who was also a brave young man and also a soldier in his country, through the White House was to show him the Nobel Prize that was won by Teddy Roosevelt.

I took him into the Roosevelt Room and I showed him that prize, and I said: "This is a Nobel Peace Prize. In fact,

you were dealing with a country that had very, very strong feelings toward the United States."

... I knew well exactly what he was and what the leadership represented. I also noted the fact that during the time that we were pursuing this initiative, there were no acts of terrorism addressed against Americans and that the rhetoric from that very strong leader against us was reduced considerably.

Had you become the principal advocate of having this (Iran arms sales) programme go forward?

## Inouye pulls rank in medals battle

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In the battle to win the hearts and trust of America, military medals are playing their part. Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North displays six rows of ribbons on his chest, but Senator Daniel Inouye, the chairman of the joint investigating committee into the Iran-Contra affair, before which Colonel North is appearing, is not impressed.

Also a war veteran, he, too, has been wearing his medals — and they outrank Colonel North's, as he subtly suggested during one clash in the hearings.

Colonel North, in the full dress olive-green uniform of the Marine Corps, displays (see photograph at right) the Silver Star, the third-highest award for gallantry in combat; the Bronze Star with "V" (for valor on the battlefield); and the Purple Heart with star, awarded for twice being wounded in Vietnam.

He also wears the Navy Achievement Medal and several decorations for more routine accomplishments, parachutist's wings and two marksmanship medals.

The large blue-and-gold replica of the President's Seal on his right breast pocket —

the first one ever given to an American.

"And it was given to a President who saw that it was to the advantage of our country and to world peace to sit down in Portsmouth, and have a conference with two adversaries, the Russians and the Japanese, who were fighting a war thousands of miles away from us, that had no immediate impact on America, and we solved it."

And that's what I was talking to the young Iranian about, and that's the kind of thing that I was proposing that helps us get beyond arms, as a liability, or arms for hostages.

Did you believe that when you are talking to that young man, it was equivalent to talking to people like Chen En-lai (late Chinese Prime Minister), which (Henry) Kissinger did?

No.

Did you not realize, sir, that

the White House staff badge — was once reserved for military officers actually serving on the President's staff. A recent rule change allowed former White House staff officers to continue wearing it.

Senator Inouye has worn — more discreetly, in his lapel — a small insignia of the Distinguished Service Cross, which he won in the Second World War. It is America's highest award for valor. Senator Inouye lost his right arm as the result of a war wound, which was emphasized when he rose to swear in Colonel North using his left arm.

Senator Inouye, in a rare personal intervention, took issue during the hearings with Colonel North's suggestion that Congress could not be trusted to keep secrets. "I'm a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal for intelligence, the highest non-military decoration that can be given to a non-military person," he said.

"And last year, before Mr Casey went to the hospital, he presented me with the Central Intelligence Agency medal. I don't know what you're talking about, but I can assure you that these committees... can be trusted."

I don't believe I was the principal advocate. Certainly Director Casey was always a supporter of it because he saw several objectives that could be achieved by it...

Colonel, when you said there was an established person to take the spear (blame), you're referring to yourself.

Yes... Mr McFarlane expressed concern that, unless we got beyond Ghorbanifar, that we would not succeed. I shared that.

Were you told, following this meeting with the President, that the President wanted to make another try?

I was told to initiate another effort (by Admiral Poindexter)... Director Casey was a very strong advocate of this... We believed that Mr Buckley (the late American hostage) was being held, and that we had some indications that he was being tortured...

Did you express your point of view that the hostages

would be killed or could be killed and there could be further reprisals if you didn't go forward with the initiative?

Yes, and I believe Director Casey articulated those same views...

Did you tell Mr Cook of the Defence Department, as he testified here, that the President was "driving him nuts" to get the hostages back by Christmas?

I don't recall saying that... it was always very clear that our objective was to get as many hostages back as possible... it was very clear that the

of the Union" message in January.)

Did you regard yourself as having a political objective?

I have absolutely no political ambitions whatsoever. I can assure you, I'm not for anything and I'm certainly not running from anything. Thursday evening:

Was it just instinctive that you don't mention the name of the Director, when you're talking to the Attorney-General (Edwin Meese in late November) about knowledge of support for the Contras?

It was instinctive, counsel.

able to co-ordinate sufficiently and that I could seek his guidance on a number of things.

He was a person who you could confide in?

I did.

He was a person whose advice you valued?

Instinctively.

Were you on a first-name basis?

He was with me. I called him by his first name, Mr Director. I called him Mr Casey to his face. I occasionally perhaps called him Bill. When my father died, counsel, there were three people in the Government of the United States that expressed their condolences. One was Admiral Poindexter, one was the Vice-President of the United States (Mr George Bush), and the other one was Bill Casey.

And Bill Casey was, for me, a man of immense proportions, and a man whose advice I valued greatly, and a man whose concerns for his country and the future of this land were, I thought, on the right track. I may be wrong but I don't think history will bear that out, and I took his advice to heart.

Did you look upon him, in a way, as a boss?

I've heard that said. I don't think so much as a boss but I know who my superiors are and I know the chain of command. And he wasn't a

## The President wanted them home as fast as possible

boss so much as he was a personal friend, and an adviser, and a person with whom I could consult and get good solid advice, and a person to whom I could turn for support.

When you briefed him on what you were doing to keep the Contras alive, did he express his approval to you?

He never once, that I can recall, in any way disagreed with any of the things that I was doing. In fact, he gave me a number of ideas how they might be done better. And I don't recall that he ever said don't do something you are doing. He often would suggest ways to do it better.

Did you talk to Director Casey about the financial needs of the Contras?

... Yes, we did.

Did you discuss with Director Casey that this use of the proceeds (Iran arms sales profits for the Contras) was a matter that could be a political bombshell?

Certainly, we discussed that very clearly toward the end of my tenure...

... He (Casey) had a reputation of being a very, very, very smart lawyer.

He was, indeed.

(Casey's mind) was very quick.

It sure was...



President wanted as many Americans home, all of them home, as fast as possible.

Mr Hakim testified under oath here that you told him that the President was exerting pressure on you to get the hostages back in time for the elections in November of 1986.

The President of the United States never told me that, nor did any other person. I may have said that to Mr Hakim to entice him to greater effort, but I certainly didn't bear that from the President.

And no one in the Administration gave you that idea?

No one ever. I can assure you, counsel, that the President's concerns for the hostages outweighed his political ambitions or political concerns. They were truly humanitarian... in fact, the President was willing to take great political risk in pursuing this initiative. I am sure it was me (who said that we should try to get results by the "State

from my earliest days of contact with the Director that his relationship and mine not be something that was publicly banded about and, until these hearings, I don't believe that most people in Washington knew that the Director and I communed as often as we did.

How often did you commune?

I would say several times a week.

Where?

Most often on the telephone, but we would meet in his office, occasionally in mine, occasionally out at the office in Langley (CIA headquarters). I can recall a number of meetings, if not more, in his office at the Intelligence Community building across the street.

I can recall meetings in his home. I can recall riding in the car with him. I can recall airplane trips with him.

But we met enough to be

## THE TIMES WATER-PROOF WALKING BOOTS



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# Chun gives up party leadership to clear way for reform era

From David Watts, Seoul

The joint opposition leader, Mr Kim Young Sam, president of the Reunification Democratic Party (DJP) to ease opposition pressures for his removal and clear the way for his successor to reshape the Government.

The President's decision had been expected. It was announced at a caucus meeting of the party yesterday when he told members Korea was winding up one era in its political history and making preparations for another.

"A shameful legacy of the past was now being liquidated to make way for a new chapter of democratic development," he said. His resignation from the powerful role of party president is the result of a number of factors. These include the need to allow Mr Roh Tae Woo to shape the party in his image in time for the forthcoming presidential and National Assembly elections. A reshuffle of the Cabinet and party leadership is likely to follow.

President Chun's move also responds to mistrust in the moderate opposition that the President will reverse course as dramatically as he has allowed reforms to go forward, and demands that he have no role in the elections. It also goes some way to address demands from the radical faction of the opposition that he leave the post of head of state altogether.

The joint opposition leader, Mr Kim Young Sam, president of the Reunification Democratic Party, welcomed the move.

"We have insisted that President Chun abandon the presidency of the Democratic Justice Party, so that he could help achieve the peaceful transition of power from a neutral position," he said. But he also demanded the formation of a neutral election management Cabinet.

Some foreign diplomats regard any demand that President Chun leave the national leadership as unrealistic, but Thursday's radical outburst were directed against the President personally, now that most democratic demands are being addressed. One of the more printable pieces of graffiti scrawled on the side of City Hall suggested the President go and play chess with ex-President Marcos in Hawaii.

From now on Korea's political parties should operate on the strength of ideas and policies rather than revolving around a specific personality, President Chun said.

"The public is tired of the antiquated political modus operandi by which leaders broke their promises to the public without a blink of an eye and practised habitual deception simply to advance their personal interests and partisan advantages."

"I have come to the conclusion that to speed up the development of the DJP, as well as the general political renewal in this country, it is not appropriate for me to remain president of the DJP any longer," he stated.

He had decided to devote himself exclusively to his duties as President of the country from a "supra-partisan position."

Though President Chun is the party's first president and there is no precedent for the step he is taking, he will be yielding a position of considerable power in the party which allowed him to approve all candidatures for the National Assembly, all candidates for party office and control of the DJP budget.

The DJP caucus yesterday voted to make him honorary president of the party.

The President also paid tribute to Mr Roh, who is expected to be voted into the presidency later this month, for his reform proposal, which had "given all our citizens a refreshing jolt and has greatly enhanced their pride."

Mr Kim Young Sam's call for a neutral Cabinet to see the country through the period between the end of constitutional reform and the elections matches that of Mr Kim Dae Jung, the other main opposition leader.

## UK visit by King of Morocco

# Hassan wants link-up to Europe

King Hassan of Morocco next week pays a state visit to Britain, the first by a reigning monarch whose Alawi dynasty stretches back three centuries. Susan MacDonald talked to him in his Casablanca palace.

Fountains play in the cool green gardens, birds sing amid well-laid-out flowers and bushes. Servants glide softly to and fro. The King arrives to the chant of the royal guard, lining the garden entrance to the palace, who throw back their heads as they sing.

He is a small, dapper man, dressed with flair; he is wearing one of his favourite suits, pin-striped with quiet beige, blue, pink and grey stripes on a pale background. The shirt is pink with a white collar and the black shoes are Gucci. He smokes one cigarette after another in a small holder, popping them out of a cleverly designed plastic cigarette box bearing his coat of arms.

He introduces his younger son, Prince Moulay Rachid, a shy 18-year-old who will accompany him to London. The young man shifts uneasily as the King explains that learning good English was one of the conditions laid down for his being taken along.

The King feels he knows Britain without having been there (not strictly true, as he made a brief visit as Crown Prince over 25 years ago). British-Moroccan relations stretch back over the centuries and he is sure that, if geo-strategy had been different, Britain would never have allowed France to take over this part of North Africa. "Then," he added with a smile, "we would have had Britain as our protectors."

He is not going to London with any fixed agenda for talks with the Prime Minister and members of her Government. "We are more than ever committed to becoming a member of the European Common Market. It is with Europe that we see our future," he said.

"Meanwhile, we must continue to produce and to export and we must find transport to send our goods to different countries. We have studied the situation and have decided that, of the merchant shipping fleets, the British is the best and we will be talking about shipping our goods with them."

The Moroccans are fighting a war in the Western Sahara against the Polisario Front.



King Hassan: anxious for a quick solution to the Middle East problem to avoid "a massive conflagration".

whose Saharwi people are claiming an independent state there. Will he be discussing arms sales in London? "Everything is possible."

He went on: "War is always a last resort. I think that recent openings have appeared in solving the problem, including our meeting with the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid."

Algeria supports the Polisario Front financially and has provided land for Saharwi refugees who have fled the Western Sahara. A recent United Nations mission to these refugee camps brought hope that the long-standing promise of a referendum to allow the Saharwi to determine their own future may yet be realized.

Up to now the two sides have held different views on how preparation for the referendum should be conducted, but the King explained that it would be the responsibility of the United Nations to organize such a referendum which he said would be for all those born in the Sahara, and for the UN to guarantee the security of those Saharwis

who want to come from Algeria to vote. "If the referendum shows that the Saharwi want to remain part of Morocco, then we will be very happy. If it shows that they would prefer an independent state, then we will be the first to open an embassy in their capital and offer help. What we will not tolerate is a disruptive minority within Morocco, such as the Basque situation in Spain."

Unity in the north-west African countries (the Maghreb) is an age-old Moroccan dream. It is also the dream of Colonel Gaddafi, although the two men see it in a different light. "We will in the Maghreb be 100 million people by the end of this century, and I think that Europe would prefer to deal with us as a whole and not as separate countries," the King said. Referring to the latest Libyan manoeuvres towards closer links with Algeria, which could stretch to Tunisia, the King explained that Colonel Gaddafi has a sort of mania for union. In fact, over the years, he has tried to unify with several Arab coun-

tries, including Morocco itself. But, said the King, any lasting union would need time to mature; Libya and Algeria's needs were different.

Any Maghreb union, he said, would be to Morocco's benefit in the long run. Would not Morocco feel isolated if such a Libyan-Algerian union took place? The King smiled at my incomprehension. "We have been isolated for six centuries and we are still here."

The King's habit of treading his own path led him to invite the then Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, to Morocco a year ago. "I am going," he told Mr Peres, "to cause a scandal for you by inviting you." In fact the scandal touched them both, with Syria breaking diplomatic ties with Morocco as a result of the meeting in Ifran - a gesture the King terms as taken in a fit of bad temper. Of Mr Peres, he said: "I met a man prepared to discuss peace and for the first time I heard an Israeli talk about the Palestinian people."

There can be no international peace conference, he said, without the Soviet Union, both because of its geographical position and because it is a world power. The PLO would have to be present, too, in some form or other.

The Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the Gulf he described as very serious. "Europe suffered a religious war in the 15th century," he said. "In the Arabic calendar we are now in our 15th century, and perhaps it is our time to have our religious war." Then he added: "I enjoy making historical comparisons for it helps to put the present difficulties into perspective."

"It is vital that the major powers solve the Middle East problem as soon as possible because the situation contains a number of small linked potential bombs which, if they all exploded, could cause a massive conflagration."

We sat in the cool beauty of the palatial garden amid the scent of roses, the King's manner giving a sense of relaxed intimacy. It was only at the end, as he took his leave, that I looked around and became fully aware of the discreet large crowd of dark-suited ministers and counsellors who had taken in every word, and of the three royal television cameras which had filmed every move.

## UN staff seized by Philippine Muslims

Manila (Reuters) - Two women workers for a United Nations aid project have been kidnapped in the southern Philippines by Muslim guerrillas, the military reported yesterday.

They were travelling in a Jeep with others in the mountainous Mindanao island province of Lanao del Sur when nine armed men stopped their vehicle on Wednesday, the local brigade deputy commander, Colonel Woodrow Estreza, said.

The women, members of the UN World Food Assistance programme and identified as Ms Teofila Smith and Ms Linda Madrid, a Filipino, were taken captive and the others were released, he added. The nationality of Ms Smith was not immediately known.

## Kurdish attack

Ankara (Reuters) - Kurdish rebels fighting for autonomy opened fire on a military patrol in Erzurum town in Turkey's Siirt province, killing a soldier. One guerrilla was killed.

## Mogul's mint

Geneva (Reuters) - A pure gold Islamic coin believed to be the world's largest at 26.5lb is expected to fetch more than \$6 million at a private auction here in October. The "One Thousand Muhurs" was minted for the Indian Mogul emperor, Jahangir, in 1613.

## Protest march

Caracas (Reuters) - An estimated 15,000 people took part in a march in protest against the death of two youths and the detention of hundreds of others during student demonstrations in Venezuela last week.

## Mud deaths

Wellington (AP) - Four men died when their car crashed into a pool of boiling thermal mud near Lake Rotomua, New Zealand, police said.

## Officers killed

Detroit (Reuters) - Three US policemen were killed after being seized at gunpoint near here as hostages in a motel room by an elderly woman and her three sons, federal officials said. The four later surrendered.



## Camera catches defiant interpreter in embassy

Vahid Gordji, left, caught in a long-distance photograph while working in his office in the Iranian Embassy in Paris, where he has taken refuge. An interpreter at the embassy, he refuses to answer a magistrate's summons to testify about bombings in Paris last year (Reuters reports).

France has threatened to consider breaking diplomatic relations with Tehran if Mr Gordji does not testify. The embassy is now cordoned off by police, and Iran has taken similar action against the French Embassy in Tehran, Iran, which is also embroiled

in diplomatic rows with Britain, says it has no intention of severing ties with Paris and London unless they make the first move.

Iran's national news agency, Irna, quoted the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, as saying that such crises were "not too bad" for Tehran, whose policy was to minimize the presence in Iran of colonialist countries.

Britain and Iran have each reduced their diplomatic presence to one envoy after a row over the arrest in Manchester of an Iranian official.

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# Forgotten identity-card controversy catches fire at last

From Brian James, Sydney

There is front of the war memorial in Sydney's Martin Place someone should perhaps attach another commemorative plaque to mark the spot where, three days before the end of an interminable Australian election campaign, a first glimpse of a matter of principle was finally observed.

On that spot Mr Paul McLean, standing for the entirely fringe Democratic Party, set fire to a mock-up of the proposed Australia Card, a sort of financial ID or passport which soon no Australian may dare be without.

His gesture on what is certainly a fundamental matter of the privacy of the individual brought for the first time to headlines and a few feet of television film an election issue that could not be debated on a pocket-calculator. The entire election until now has turned on whether the Liberals can deliver the tax cuts



they promise, or whether Labor should be returned as reward for not making the country slightly less affluent than it is.

But oddest of all is that the card issue is precisely why the country is enduring an election at all. Twice defeated in the Senate on his Bill to introduce the card, the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, dissolved both Houses and stalked off to confront the country with the choice. And since then he has totally ignored the matter. For all the attention it has had in his speeches, statements and television interviews, the Australia Card might have been a travel pass to get visitors around the kangaroo reserves on the cheap.

"Odd is hardly the word," said Mr McLean as the ashes of his gesture blew away and a thin crowd cheered. "Here this nation of rugged individuals is about to line up with South Africa and Chile, and no one thinks this is something we ought to be talking about?"

A Democrat, of course, would talk in those terms. Without a single seat in the Lower House, the 10 places secured by the proportional representation system for the Senate give Democrats a casting vote and a heady opportunity to make mischief. Nevertheless, Australia ought to be glad of their robust intervention on this controversial matter.

The rationale for the card, says Labor, is the urgent need to lay hands on the £425 million annually lost through tax evasion and social service fraud. The measure will simply concentrate existing forms of data base — "Those with nothing

to hide will have nothing to fear." That is too glib an explanation to allow the nodding through of a measure after which no Australian will be able to offer or take employment, open a bank account, invest or exchange money, buy or sell land or buildings, enter hospital, obtain a passport, or — crucial to 2.8 million Australians — apply for social benefits.

The proposed penalties are draconian — a £9,000 fine and imprisonment for not attending with the card at a tax office if summoned, and the same for hiring casual staff and not noting their card number; a £2,250 fine for firms that do not submit clients' numbers to the Government; £225 for failing to report the loss of a card; and 10 times as much fine, plus up to two years' jail, for doing to a real card what Mr McLean did to his fake.

Naturally, in their onslaught on the proposal, the scenarios laid out by groups such as Australia's Civil

Liberties Committee are Gothic in their horror, usually involving a sick old lady who journeys from a distant village to bring documentary proof to the AC office that she is who she says and to be photographed for her card. She falls ill in the street and, cardless, is refused admission to hospital, dies, and is denied a decent burial.

Mr McLean does not put it quite

measure is of that degree of intrusion. "Talk of Nazi-like measures is too emotive. I don't think Messrs Hawke and Keating (Mr Paul Keating, the Finance Minister) will abuse it. But who comes after? Or what if their Bill had gone through last year, and then Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen (Queensland's Premier) had succeeded in his move to become Prime Minister? Can you imagine what a tool the card could be in the hands of a man of simplistic solutions to everything like Joh?"

"Which is why, if Hawke wins and tries to push this Australia Card through by a vote of the combined Houses without a referendum, he will unleash a civil disobedience campaign that will astonish him."

"We estimate at least 15 per cent of Australians want no part of the card. So what's he going to do — drag two million Aussies screaming in front of a camera?"

## Backing for Kohl defence project

From Diana Geddes Paris

While many observers are already dismissing Chancellor Helmut Kohl's proposal for a joint Franco-German brigade as a potentially attractive but totally unrealistic idea, senior officers from the French and West German armed forces have been discussing how such a proposal could best be implemented.

The officers' weeklong talks ended in Paris yesterday. It was the first time that senior officers from all three services in both countries had got together to discuss common security interests.

The top-level seminar, which is held every year alternating between France and West Germany, forms part of the series of measures taken over the past four years to strengthen Franco-German military co-operation. It follows the decision by Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand to reactivate the defence clause of the 1963 Franco-German treaty.

The most striking evidence of that increased co-operation will be seen in the joint military exercise, dubbed *Kicker Spar* (Cheeky Sparrow), involving some 80,000 men, including 27,000 from France's new Rapid Deployment Force, which the two countries are due to hold in Bavaria in September. It will be the first time since the war that such large numbers of French soldiers, normally based in France, have crossed the Rhine.

The manoeuvres are due to be attended by both Mitterrand and Herr Kohl, and the two leaders will doubtless use the occasion to discuss further the viability of a joint Franco-German brigade of, say, about 5,000 men, under French command. It was proposed by the German Chancellor on June 19 in the wake of fears of an eventual American "decoupling" from Europe provoked by the latest US-Soviet arms talks.

Mitterrand, along with most other French political leaders, has already expressed warm approval of the idea, describing such a brigade as a possible future embryo of European defence.

At the same time, however, he has admitted that certain practical difficulties would first need to be overcome, not least regarding the difference between France and Germany's status within Nato.

Leading article, page 9

## Debate on political violence dominates meeting in Senegal

From Michael Hornsby, Dakar, Senegal

The dangers of uncontrolled political violence, and the threat to national unity posed by a racially and ethnically diverse society, dominated the second day of talks here yesterday between a group of some 50 white South Africans and leaders of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

Determined to make the most of their role as hosts, the Senegalese authorities insisted on taking their guests on a tour of a jam factory outside Dakar, delaying by several hours the formal resumption of the conference.

Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, former leader of the official Opposition in the white House of Assembly in South Africa, leads the "internal" South African delegation, a diverse group of mainly Afrikaans-speaking whites.

The delegation sent by the ANC, which has its head quarters in Lusaka, Zambia, is led by Mr Thabo Mbeki, its director of information. Four other members of the ANC's national executive committee, Mr Francis Meki, Mr Pallo Jordan, Mr Mac Maharaj, and Mr Aziz Pahad, are also in the exiled group here.

The talks started on Thursday afternoon with a paper by Dr Andre du Toit, a professor of political science at the University of Cape Town, who served warning that the ANC could lose the political

initiative if its use of violence was not "confined within clear and definite limits".

Professor du Toit accepted that it was "cynical and unrealistic of the Government to require the ANC or other resistance movements to re-

Johannesburg — The South African Government is prepared to call a general election for urban blacks so that they can choose representatives for the proposed National Statutory Council, a first step towards black participation in the legislative process (Ray Kennedy writes).

Such an election on a national scale would be the first in South Africa for blacks. When President Botha announced his intention of forming the National Statutory Council 18 months ago, he indicated that its members would be nominated from among black leaders who were put forward for office.

Violence as a precondition for negotiation, and that the ANC's resort to violence was a response to "a long history of increasingly violent repression by the minority government of the day."

But, he argued, uncontrolled political violence was counter-productive. In particular, he said that "if local initiatives, such as 'necklacing' for political purposes, are not quickly, consis-

tently and authoritatively disowned, a climate is soon created in which a responsible resistance movement can only lose the political initiative."

This was a reference to the burning-tyre killings of police informers and political opponents in the black townships which Pretoria accuses the ANC of deliberately encouraging.

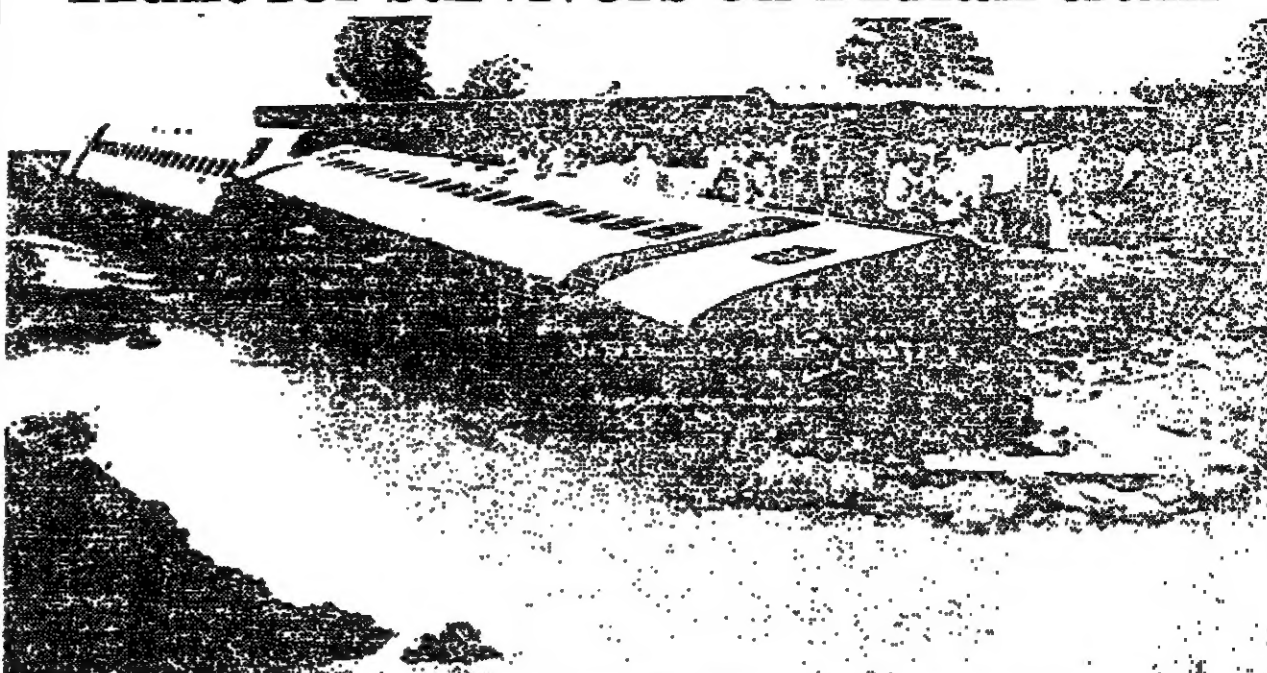
A full response from the ANC to such criticisms is still awaited, but its official position on "necklacing" killings was described to *The Times* by Mr Mbeki in the following terms: "We do not approve of necklacing and we do not encourage it, but we are not prepared to condemn publicly those who carry it out."

Participants in the conference said that some of the most emotion-charged moments in the discussions came when ANC delegates reminded the Afrikaners of their own use of violence in opposing British rule.

● **JOHANNESBURG:** An extreme right-wing organization, the *Blanke Bevrydings Beweging* (White Freedoms Movement), said yesterday it filed a formal complaint accusing the white South Africans meeting the ANC in Senegal of high treason.

● **Jail damages:** Melisango Johnson, aged 38, a black South African, was paid £15,500 damages this week because he spent two years in jail after winning an appeal.

## Hunt for survivors on Indian train



Coaches of the Hyderabad-Delhi "Dakshin Express" lying on their side in the rain-swollen Ganderanagi river in India's Andhra Pradesh state after the train jumped the tracks on a flooded bridge, sending two crowded coaches into the river. At least 53 people died in Thursday's accident and rescuers yesterday were hampered by heavy rain in the hunt for survivors.

## Egyptian minister to pay visit to Israel

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

For the first time since the Lebanese war in 1982, an Egyptian Foreign Minister is to come to Israel. The visit was agreed in Geneva on Thursday when Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, had a two-hour meeting in an atmosphere of what he called trust and candour with President Mubarak of Egypt.

The visit puts Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, in something of a difficulty. He has been quick to welcome it, reminding the world that he had himself invited Mr Esmat Abdel Maguid to visit Israel when

they met in New York last September. It is a visit at a sufficiently senior level to show that relations between the two countries are on the mend.

But Mr Maguid is coming largely to continue discussions with Mr Peres about calling an international peace conference on the Middle East, which is something to which Mr Shamir is totally opposed. Mr Avraham Tamir, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, flies to Cairo tomorrow to complete arrangements for the trip, which is expected at the end of this month. The international conference will inevitably top the agenda

because President Mubarak and Mr Peres are both worried that, if it fails to take place this year, it will be too late.

Both agreed in Geneva that two big problems remain — Soviet participation and Palestinian representation. The President insisted that, as "the second world power", the Soviet Union must take part, while Mr Peres only agreed provided that "they will accept the rules of the game". This means Russia must first renew diplomatic relations with Israel and allow free emigration of Jews.

Both also agreed that the Palestinians could be represented at the moment only in

a joint delegation with Jordan. Mr Peres announced happily in Geneva that the President "does not believe in a Palestinian state".

Mr Shamir, who pointedly refused to wish Mr Peres good luck before he left for Geneva, cannot be happy if there is progress towards a conference, but he knows that he still has a slim Knesset majority which can prevent Israel taking part in it, while an opinion poll yesterday showed that Israelis are turning increasingly against the idea.

Mr Peres may be making progress in Egypt, but he appears to be dropping behind in Israel where it really matters.

### Man in the News

## Black sheep of white Afrikaners

By Michael Hornsby

On a hot afternoon in February last year, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert rose to his feet in South Africa's whites-only House of Assembly to announce that he was resigning not only from the party he had led for the past seven years but also from Parliament itself. When parliamentary politics, he said, had become a "ritual of irrelevance".

His departure stunned his colleagues of the liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP), which was then the official Opposition. Most of them had been given no more than an hour's notice of his intentions.

When they had recovered from their shock, many were angry. PFP veterans like the redoubtable Mrs Helen Suzman, who had weathered 13 lonely years from 1961 to 1974 as the sole standard-bearer of the liberal cause in Parliament, felt they had been betrayed, and said so. A year and a half later, she still finds it difficult to forgive or forget.

With one or two exceptions, commentators who had earlier lionized Dr Slabbert in newspaper hyperbole as "Super Van", the glamorous and youthful Afrikaner who was going to broaden the PFP's previously mainly English-oriented appeal and challenge the ruling National Party (NP) on its own ethnic turf, now wrote him off as an academic dilettante who lacked the stomach for the rough and tumble of the political fight.

Dr Slabbert was hurt by these criticisms. He knew that people he liked and admired, such as Mrs Suzman and Mr Colin Eglin, his predecessor (and successor) as PFP leader who had been somewhat unceremoniously shunted aside in 1979 to make way for the

younger man, felt bitterly let down. But, he insisted, being leader of the official Opposition was not a lifetime commitment, and it was unreasonable for people to expect him to go on playing a role in which he himself no longer believed.

His natural habitat is the university lecture hall, where he spent most of his adult years before entering politics, and he could never bring himself to acquire the demagogic skills which are essential weapons in the arsenal of the most effective parliamentary debaters.

His attacks on what he termed the Government's policy of "co-optive domination" — a phrase he coined to describe Pretoria's attempt to forge protective alliances with the Indian and mixed-race Coloured minorities — impressed fellow political scientists by the cogency of their analysis, but were not the sort of stuff to send people rushing out into the streets to man the barricades, and he would probably have been rather horrified if that had been the result.

Yet his first two or three years as party leader were by any standards a success. He was young and good-looking, combining brains with the brand of rugby-playing brawn which Afrikaners most admire.

He seemed the very model of the new breed of urban, detribalized Afrikaner capable not only of bridging the old gulf between "Boer and Brit" but also of sending a signal of hope to South Africa's voteless black millions. The 1981 general election, which boosted the PFP's seats in Parliament from 17 to 26, appeared to confirm his appeal.

To Dr Slabbert, President Botha's reform programme was worse than no reform at all — a sham extension of

democracy that not only perpetuated the apartheid principle of racial separation and effective white rule, but was also calculated to inflame racial tension by excluding the black majority.

He persuaded the PFP to campaign vigorously for a "no" vote in the whites-only referendum on the new constitution which President Botha called in late 1983, overriding some opposition from the more conservative elements in the PFP who felt



Dr Slabbert: short on tactics but a clear thinker.

that the tricameral Parliament was at least "a step in the right direction". In the event, more than two-thirds of whites voted "yes", and it was clear that large numbers of PFP supporters had disregarded their party's advice and voted for the Botha reforms.

This left Dr Slabbert leading the official white Opposition in a revamped Parliament which he had himself described as worse than the previous all-white body. Black extra-parliamentary groups called on the PFP to accept the logic of its position and withdraw from Parliament. Dr Slabbert argued patiently that the party still had a duty "to engage the system", but it was obvious that his heart was no longer in it. Indeed, in retro-

spect it seems surprising that the final break took as long as it did.

For some time after his resignation he simply disappeared from sight. It was only towards the end of last year that his new "think tank", with the characteristically academic-sounding title of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (IDASA), began to be talked of. Before this week's conference with the outlawed African National Congress in Senegal, which has turned into more of a media event than Dr Slabbert had intended, IDASA had generally kept a low profile.

Dr Slabbert spent most of the past year quietly building up his credibility with the more radical groups and leaders in the black townships, particularly in the volatile Eastern Cape, and seeking ways of bringing them together with white bodies, such as Afrikaner student organizations, they would otherwise seldom, if ever, meet. He passionately believes that such bridges must be built if there is to be any hope of a peaceful way out of South Africa's problems.

He also believes that it is crucial that the present relatively moderate and elderly ANC leadership should be involved in negotiations about the future of the country before the torch passes to today's young "comrades", the battle-scarred and hate-filled teenage desperadoes of the townships who know nothing of compromise or negotiation.

Dr Slabbert, with his impeccable Afrikaner credentials, might just be the one person who can talk not only to Mr Oliver Tambo of the ANC in exile and the black militants at home, but also to the likes of Mr Andries Treurnicht on the white right wing.



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## SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

### Lowest of the low

As bizarre cricket matches go, this one, Keymer and Hassocks v Ashdown Forest in May 1986, must be almost impossible to beat. Hassocks made 182 for 5. Ashdown replied as follows:

T Johnson, c Will, b Grimley	0
D Green, not out	0
M Taylor, b Grimley	0
B Allen, b Grimley	0
P Sharkey, b Grimley	0
B Barker, b Price	0
G Baxter, b Price	0
B Eton, c Tucker, b Price	0
J Houghton, b Price	0
L Williams, b Price	0
Extras	0
Total	0

Note that the opener, David Green, carried his bat for 0, playing out four successive maidens from the luckless Williams, and watching bewildered as man after man departed from the opposite end. The final bowling figures were:

J Grimley 2-0-0-4; K Williams 4-0-0-1  
Price 2-0-0-5.

At the Ashdown men had managed to field a full eleven, things might have been very different. As Tewin Irregulars' opposing skipper said last weekend: "Cricket matches are won and lost on the telephone."

### Century ahead

There comes a time for most bowlers when they stop bowling fast and turn instead to spin. For Frank Twicken that moment came 38 years ago, when he was 51. He has been sending down his twerkers ever since, and last season took 30 wickets for Victoria Park, in Bideford, Devon. "I see no reason why I shouldn't be playing cricket when I'm 100," he says.

### Blown out

The MCC is continuing its double century celebration with a long-running argument about money with *Evita* singer Elaine Paige. She was booked to perform at the MCC Spring Ball for a fee of £5,000, but unfortunately the marquee blew down. The MCC made the best of things by holding the function at the pavilion and the real tennis courts, but Miss Paige said she was unable to perform in these circumstances. The MCC is trying to get her to accept a lower fee than the one agreed.

### Jollies

Three England rugby internationals are now in South Africa playing for Pirates rugby club in Johannesburg. They are Peter Winterbottom, Chris Butcher and Peter Williams. No dire retribution awaits them on their return: while club visits are still frowned upon, the Rugby Union has lifted its ban on individuals playing there.

### Post script

Some weeks ago I wondered in this space about great men who have also been goalkeepers, citing Camus, Nabokov and the Pope. I learn to my great pleasure that the Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko in his day was another fine performer between the posts. Indeed, the position of goalkeeper is reserved for those of truly exceptional stamp.

### Ovahead

Those of us who looked skywards at Wimbledon last week were baffled. Why was that aeroplane - it turned out to be Capital Radio's traffic spotter - towing the not-uncrypt message: "And then it will be Navratilova"? A Capital Radio spokesman said: "Normally we only get inquiries from companies, but this booking was made by a lady who rang from the United States and asked to remain anonymous. She ordered the banner to be flown only if Miss Navratilova came safely through her quarter-final match, and asked that it make a number of passes over the Wimbledon area." But what it meant, other than being a weakish sort of pun, will remain forever unclear. Except, perhaps, to Miss Navratilova herself.

### Frankly...

Everyone outside the West Indies said fast bowler Charlie Griffiths was a chucker, but Frank Worrell, his captain, publicly defended him all the way. But now it emerges that Sir Frank privately believed that Charlie was a chucker all along and supported him only because Richie Benaud, the then Australian captain, was "hypocritical" in denouncing Griffiths when there were one or two Australians whose actions were also suspect. The revelation comes from a new book, *Frank Worrell: A Biography* by Ivo Tennant.

BARRY FANTONI



Mrs Thatcher is right that radical policies are needed for the inner cities. But the policies her government proposes may not be sufficiently radical or Thatcherite.

One of the most important reasons for the failure of government in the inner cities is the relative lack of opportunities for their inhabitants to act responsibly. The state provides all material needs in ways that discourage individual responsibility and encourage dependence.

The government, recognizing this, proposes reform of education, housing and rates intended to give more power to individuals. But there is a danger that the reforms will create rights that are so complicated and demanding to exercise that few of those who could most benefit will have the inclination or the competence to take advantage of them.

Education proposals will give parents the right to band together with school governors and teachers and, if there is sufficient support, remove their schools from the control of local education authorities. But there is little to stop inner-city militants banding together to frustrate parents' intentions by ensuring, by argument and intimidation, that sufficient support cannot be created.

Far better to give parents real choice by privatizing schools and introducing a voucher system, as in France. In this way parents would be obliged to choose a school for their children and so would at least have an opportunity to act responsibly.

In housing, the government proposes to give tenants the right to buy the ownership of their council houses and flats to certain classes of landlord more conducive to them. As with education, the difficulties may be much greater than the government imagines. Are we really to suppose that individuals who depend on the state are going to get their act together sufficiently to take on unsympathetic council officials

# Inner cities: the quest for self-reliance

by David Hart

and somehow force them to comply with the procedures for handing over ownership of houses to tenant co-operatives, housing associations or other approved landlords? How will the government stop tenant co-operatives and housing associations being infiltrated and dominated by militants as some local authorities have been?

Quite apart from the difficulties that tenants will encounter in claiming their new rights, this Conservative policy amounts to an astonishing assault on ancient property rights. For the state to order local authorities to privatize their property is one thing. It is quite another to give tenants disproportionate rights over their landlords, however undesirable those landlords may be. How could a future Conservative opposition obtain public support to prevent a Labour government giving the same rights to tenants of private property?

This proposal is likely to have calamitous consequences for private rented property. Only a fool who wanted to be parted from his money would invest in residential property knowing there was a distinct possibility that his tenant might well acquire the same rights as council tenants at some future date and force him to sell it to another landlord.

Much more imagination is

needed to privatize municipal housing. The government should consider ways of giving institutions and private landlords, as well as tenants, the right to buy council property in inner cities, let or vacant, at a sufficient discount to make it attractive.

Only a radical reform of this kind will end the local authority stranglehold over residential property. Only if it is ended will inner city housing improve.

To encourage private landlords and to meet objections to the Rent Acts, not least from its own backbenchers, the government proposes an extension of the short-let and assured tenancy schemes. These schemes have failed and will continue to fail however much they are extended. Assured tenancies give security of tenure beyond the term of the lease. Short-let tenancies are subject to state control of rents. Both are too restrictive, too inflexible and give disproportionate rights to the tenant. Where tenants have disproportionate rights the only property investors are precisely those whom the government would wish to discourage.

After 30 years of state controls that have seen the near destruction of the private rented sector, nothing less than the repeal of the Rent Acts for all new lettings and a free market will encourage respectable private and institutional

investors back into residential property.

The government's proposals on education and housing are designed not only to improve both but to alter the balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of local authorities. The best way to do this is to reform the local authorities themselves.

Most people agree they need it. There is too much taxation, particularly of local businesses, without representation, and too much representation, particularly in the inner cities, without taxation.

The government is clearly committed to introducing the community charge and a universal business rate. It should also review the functions of local government. There is absolutely no point in local authorities owning and being responsible for housing, schools, sewerage, libraries, ports, airports, abattoirs, harbours and much else. Housing and education, for a start, should be a central government responsibility. Those few responsibilities which Parliament decides local government must undertake should be funded by central government out of the community charge and the business rate. Anything else should be up to the local electors to vote for and pay for as they choose, provided such taxation does not conflict with the two principles of no taxation without representation and no representation without taxation.

The aim of any reform designed to help the inner cities should be to change means whereby the state can provide for those in need in a way that will encourage them to learn how to provide for themselves and so acquire the habits and practice of responsibility.

Unless the government is ready to act decisively to return not just power but responsibility to the people, the present respite in Britain's moral and economic decline could be brief.

Michael Binyon on the cowboy colonel who has talked a nation to his side

## From fall guy to good guy

Washington  
It has been, by any standard, a *tour de force*. For the past four days, with bravura, verve and compelling clarity, Lt-Col Oliver North has held America spellbound as he has told his story of the Iran-Contra arms deal. Rarely, even at the height of Watergate, has there ever been such sustained political melodrama. Few witnesses on Capitol Hill have ever captured the hearts and attention of millions as he has. No one so mocked and vilified beforehand has managed, as he has, to change a nation's perception through sheer charisma.

From the moment the slight, bemuddled marine raised his hand, to the clicking and whirring of a hundred cameras, and swore to tell the truth, America has talked of little else. The television networks have carried their soap operas and cancelled their testimony live; 55 million people have watched. Crowds have clustered round the screens in shopping malls. Office workers have listened or watched all day. Taxi drivers and passengers have followed each twist of the confrontation. North's face has dominated every newspaper, every magazine cover, his performance is dissected with partisan passion in every overheard snatch of conversation. It is as if all America believes it is witnessing a historical turning point.

Even the White House, despite a snuffy business-as-usual image and determination not to allow the president to be held in thrall by his former aide, has been tuning in with furtive fascination. Reagan is said to have watched "a great deal" of the testimony. His spokesman said more than 2,000 letters have arrived supporting North, with about 80 criticizing him. North himself has been deluged with 50,000 messages and telegrams, of which he said only about 50 were negative.

During his seven months of silence, North was increasingly cast as the villain, the isolated and irresponsible zealot. He was, he complained bitterly, the victim of speculation and innuendo - accused of "almost every crime imaginable", from treason and drug-dealing to megalomania and profiteering. One by one he has demolished or diminished the



charges from the witness table. At the same time he has created for the world something of the image he clearly had within the White House: a dedicated patriot who slashed red tape, cut ethical corners, braved terrorists' threats and was ready to take his own life - all for his ideals.

He has displayed the cockiness and swagger of the "can-do cowboy", even offering a Western movie allusion in taking the stand with a promise to tell "the good, the bad and the ugly". Throughout, North has starred in his own film. He is a man of a hundred faces - fierce, furored, angry, lachrymose, indignant, handsome, shy, resolute, wounded, naive, contemptuous, weary, wary and earnest.

He slides from righteous indignation to bathos and back to tautly reined emotion within sentences. He has been crisply military yet spoken of his family and his loyalties with a lump in his throat. Above all, he is astonishingly articulate, fluent and precise. It is a performance - no doubt

some of it well rehearsed - that appeals to middle America in a way that Reagan used to. People understand why the old man felt moved to call his loyal young servant "a national hero". North has been seen to hold his own against terrible odds, yet has offered himself as a scapegoat.

It is at times maudlin and overwrought. But a mood is already growing in the heartlands against any criminal prosecution for activities North has passionately defended. Significantly, the White House was asked whether it would pardon him if he was indicted and convicted. The spokesman demurred. Emotions are less easily swayed in the courtroom of Congress. Most congressmen cannot forgive the Administration, and especially North, for the lack of trust, for the decision to cut Congress out and bypass its rules.

There is a bristling hostility towards the young lieutenant-colonel for his gall and lack of contrition. His extraordinary attack on his interrogators, his

accusations of foul play and fickle, vacillating policies were received in stony silence. But North's testimony is vital. He has identified issues that go to the heart not only of this sorry affair but of the whole system of US government.

The first is the question of covert operations intended to protect America. To succeed, they must deceive the enemy; but their nature demands deception of the American people too.

North has suggested that the bureaucracy has now become too clumsy to respond swiftly and effectively in emergencies. He has accused Congress, with some justification, of wanting it both ways: applauding covert operations that worked, such as the capture of the Achille Lauro hijackers, and washing America's dirty linen in public when things went wrong.

Secondly, he reinforced the argument that foreign policy had to be left to the executive, insisting that Congress must share the blame for the fiasco in Central America. Support for the Contras could not be an on-again off-again policy, kicked around like the budget. Men ready to die in the field for ideals the US supported needed consistency, he said.

Finally North raised the question of whether the hearings themselves were not immensely damaging to the US. He said that intelligence methods had been revealed and secrets compromised, if inadvertently. America's friends would be reluctant to help again if they thought it would all be dragged out in hearings. And America's adversaries were laughing at the damage done to the country's reputation.

Has his testimony saved or damned the Reagan presidency? The White House claims it has been vindicated. It is certainly relieved. But though North has produced no "smoking gun", he may have done just as much damage in the long term. He has made it abundantly clear that he was no lone wolf, operating out of control. He was part of a larger - not involving a bigger team - in fact most of the senior members of the Administration.

He has saved something of his own honour. But he has made it much harder for the Reagan administration to save its collective reputation.

## Grillings ahead for abattoir marksman

Police firearms experts estimate that the constable who shot dead two armed robbers and injured a third outside the abattoir on Plumstead, south London, on Thursday morning may have had no more than an eighth of a second to decide to shoot or hold fire, risking his own life and those of others in the process.

By early afternoon the Police Complaints Authority had been called in to begin what may prove one of its most difficult investigations, spending weeks considering that split-second action. It has yet to complete its report into the death of an armed robber shot by police at the Sir John Soane Museum in London last February.

Of the nine major current inquiries, six involve the Metropolitan Police. The PCA was conceived after the 1981 Brixton riots in south London when the Scarman report made it clear that a new way should be found to handle complaints against the police. It has good relations with most forces but there have been difficulties with the Met.

Chaired by Sir Cecil Clothier, a former Ombudsman, the authority checks police handling not only of the major cases like Plumstead but of the minor complaints, which still make up

the vast bulk of investigations. Any complaint involving death or serious injury and which is likely to result in criminal or disciplinary charges must be referred to the PCA. The PCA can also look at matters where there has been no complaint but which it considers serious enough to involve the public interest.

Appointed by the Home Secretary, the authority consists of 15 civilians, including a social worker, a former naval officer and businessman - there is an absolute ban on serving or retired police officers. All investigations are however carried out by police officers approved by the PCA and overseen by PCA members. The final report is considered by the authority, which may then decide to send the files to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The PCA can insist that lesser cases should be heard by a disciplinary board on which it can be represented. Even if the chief constable of the force concerned disagrees, the authority can insist that he takes action.

As Britain's police forces become involved in increasingly controversial operations, the PCA finds itself with few friends and many critics. From its start two years ago the authority has asserted its freedom. The over-riding criticism from a wide range

of public opinion which includes such unlikely bed-fellows as Lord Scarman, the Police Federation and the National Council for Civil Liberties is that the PCA is still not independent enough. Investigations, say the critics, should be totally independent, and not by the police.

Privately PCA officials admit they are in a no-win situation. If the policeman at the centre of the investigations is charged he is aggrieved. If he is not, the complainant is unhappy. They argue that an independent investigation team would have to be drawn from people with investigative experience, and inevitably that would be the police.

Supporters of the PCA also argue that its first two years has shown that the authority stands up for itself. Last autumn members of the Association of Chief Police Officers complained to the Home Office that the PCA was maintaining too high a public profile.

The PCA would claim as one of its successes the opening of the investigation into the case of the youths allegedly attacked by police in Holloway. In its annual report in April the authority attacked the Metropolitan Police, with whom relations have often been strained, for failing to deal swiftly with complaints. As a result of a CPA

investigation, allegations of incorrect crime reports by Kent police are being reopened.

But none of this is enough for the critics who say the authority should also look beyond the actions of individual officers to the policies, philosophies and commanders that dictate the way the ordinary policeman acts. The PCA argues that it is already doing that, making far-reaching recommendations that fundamentally influence policing.

It has won fresh enemies in the police service by suggesting there should be new powers to reduce the security of tenure of officers because the service was harbouring a small group who lacked the right temperament to be policemen but could not be removed.

One result of the Holloway investigation is that all marked London police vehicles carry individual numbers. As the PCA begins work on the Plumstead shooting it will also be able to assess the success of another of its initiatives. The police now use firearms under Home Office guidance inspired by the PCA inquiry into the shooting of John Shorthouse and Mrs. Cherry Groce two years ago.

Stewart Tendler

Robert Kilroy-Silk

## Prima donnas out of tune

As President Reagan might have said: "There's an awful lot of loony tunes and misfits in today's Parliamentary Labour Party." They are so plentiful that it's hard not to feel sorry for Neil Kinnock as he attempts the seemingly impossible task of modernizing the party and remodelling its image. Whenever he appears to be succeeding, yet another misfit explodes on to the front pages.

Many could hardly wait for the returning officer to declare them duly elected on June 11 before pushing forward to stake out a claim to be the most radical. Ken Livingstone (who else?) led the pack with his demand for extra-parliamentary activity. Paul Boateng quickly followed with a promise to free Soweto.

Some might see these excitable pronouncements as adrenalin-induced aberrations caused by the elation of their election victory after the bitter pre-selection battles with previous Labour MPs. But they are not. They are typical of the two men, and others, and presage much more of the same.

Ken Livingstone is already at it, this time giving cordily, however unintentionally, to the IRA. Neil Kinnock has enjoined his parliamentary colleagues to measure everything they say and do by how it advances Labour's electoral chances. It's difficult to see how Livingstone's extraordinary and insensitive allegations vilifying the memory of Airey Neave and Captain Robert Nairn, both murdered by Irish terrorists, can pass this test. It will damage Labour's standing everywhere, save perhaps in the odd enclave in Kilburn. Labour voters don't support terrorism, and never have.

Nor do they equate convicted IRA bombers with Jewish dissidents in Russia, as Livingstone was reported as doing last year when he pleaded with the Dutch government not to extradite to Britain Brendan McFarlane, convicted in 1976 of murdering five people in a bomb and machinegun attack on a Protestant bar in Belfast in 1973, and Gerard Kelly, convicted in 1973, along with the Price sisters, of bombing Scotland Yard and the Old Bailey, as a result of which one man died and 238 people were injured. Both men had escaped from the Maze prison and had found temporary refuge in Holland. Yet to Ken Livingstone they were "political refugees" on a par with Anatoly Shcharansky.

He was even reported as suggesting that if they were returned to Britain they would be submitted to trial without jury, and might be subjected to brutality and torture. He ignored the fact that Kelly had been tried and found guilty by a jury sitting in open court in London after a 44-day trial in which more than 150 witnesses were called. Never at any stage did he claim to have

been, or show signs of having been, beaten or tortured.

Ken Livingstone may well be a "loony tune". He may even be without power or influence in the party, as Neil Kinnock would like us to believe. But he is not stupid. He knows full well what he is doing, and the impact it has on the party and the electorate. It is all well calculated. Nor is he without support. There are many on the wider fringes of the parliamentary party who will flock to his causes, if only not to be seen to be less radical - or socialist, though heaven only knows how that comes into it - than he is. The last thing that these IRA sympathisers and Sinn Féin supporters will care or think about will be the effect of their posturing on the party and its electoral chances.

The problem for Neil Kinnock and his new soft-left shadow cabinet is that the politics of postures is not confined to the left. The right can also be self-indulgent. Thus, stimulated by a fit of petulant pique at the election of so many clever and better educated colleagues, the aggressive "look at me - I'm the authentic voice of the working class" Joe Ashton goes off in a huff to found a working-class group of MPs whose qualification of entry is that they must have left school at the earliest opportunity.

It doesn't really matter that this inverted snobbery of the worst kind belies all the efforts of the working class and their unions to cherish and fight for education, even to the extent of founding their own libraries and colleges. Nor does it really matter that it's all a load of hypocrisy, coming from a man who not only has an MP's salary but also the lucrative income from a newspaper column that helps to support a home in the provinces, a flat in the Barbican, in London, and a less than working-class lifestyle.

What matters is that, as silly as Ashton is, and is thought to be by his colleagues, he epitomizes the problem for Neil Kinnock. He can isolate Livingstone, marginalize Arthur Scargill, and treat Ashton with the contempt that he asks for and deserves. But he will find it difficult to deal with them all. And there are so many of these prima donnas in the Labour Party competing with each other to be seen as being the most outrageous and radical.

Today it's Livingstone and Ashton. Tomorrow it could well be Ron Brown singing the praises of Gaddafi, Bernie Grant attacking the police, or Dennis Skinner castigating Kinnock. And there's always Benn-Haffer in the shadows. As Colonel North would have said: "There's more than one loose cannon on the gun deck of the Labour Party."

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

## The breaking of the president

New York  
America's institutions are warping under pressure generated by an unprecedented political impasse: for nearly 40 years, neither Democrats nor Republicans has been able to establish firm control of both the presidency and Congress, the executive and legislative branches of government.

The appointment of Robert Bork to the US Supreme Court and the Iran-Contra congressional investigation are different aspects of the same gathering constitutional crisis.

In Britain, the executive branch is by definition controlled by the party that achieves a majority in the legislature. But America's Founding Fathers regarded such a concentration of power as too dangerous. They deliberately separated the two. So while the president has the power to nominate officials and to conduct foreign policy, Congress must vote to confirm them and to provide any necessary funds. Each branch of government is forced to deal with the other - ever mindful of the waves of elections every two years.

Government in America never works smoothly. But it works a good deal more smoothly when the same party controls both branches, even though party discipline by British standards is virtually non-existent. During the long years of Democratic dominance beginning with the New Deal in the mid-1930s, the office of the presidency acquired great power and prestige. But since 1952 Republican presidents have found Democratic Congresses steadily rewriting the rules.

The situation is in many ways analogous to medieval England. No one dared to dispute the monarch's right to rule - openly. Instead, political opposition was expressed by trumping up personal charges against the monarch's "favourites", his officers, and by placing ever more ingenious restrictions on the uses to which funds voted by Parliament could be put.

This process is now under way in America. Presidential nominees are placed under almost hysterical scrutiny to find some issue of probity or formal qualifications which can be used as a proxy for political differences. In the case of Robert Bork, most observers agree that this will be difficult, despite an effort to inflate his role in the Watergate imbroglio into a moral

failure. Opposition will have to focus on his "ideology", a portmanteau word which allows Bork's political allegiance to be usefully confused with his jurisprudential philosophy, albeit making the underlying political animus ever clearer.

Similarly, congressional Democrats have attempted to micro-manage foreign policy through complicated stipulations about the use of funds. For example, some have claimed that it was illegal for White House aides even to solicit private funds for the Nicaraguan Contras, since White House salaries are ultimately paid by monies voted by Congress.

Carried to its logical conclusion, this process could lead to a sort of parliamentary government in America, with policy made by leaders of the majority party in Congress. Significantly, the White House Chief of Staff, Howard Baker, himself a former senator, insisted that Bork's nomination be delayed while senators were formally consulted. And for some time now senators have been swanning around the world, conferring directly with heads of state. In Roosevelt's day they would have been blown out of the water before they crossed the three-mile limit.

But there is a limit to how far this process can go. After all, American presidents, unlike kings, are elected by popular vote. And the Founding Fathers presumably meant something when they specifically gave presidents the power to make nominations and run the executive branch. Moreover, the prolonged impasse is focusing attention on the ultimate source of the Democrats' power in recent years: their gerrymandering of the House of Representatives. This is elected like the House of Commons on a basis of equal-sized constituencies. However, the boundaries are not drawn by an impartial commission, as in Britain, but by state legislatures. This generally favours incumbents, currently Democratic, and has produced anomalies such as California, where the Republicans get half the votes and a third of the seats.

Public awareness will not make this gerrymander go away. But it should moderate Congress's moralizing fervour.

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The author is senior editor of *Forbes* magazine.









## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 10: The Earl of Airlie (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of the Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

His Excellency, Mr. Isherogin Ochirbal, received in audience by the Queen and presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Mongolian People's Republic to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr. Batmoro Chumidorgjin (Third Secretary) and Mr. Munkhsaikhan Tumur-Ochiryn (Attaché).

Mr. Ochirbal had the honour of being received by the Queen. Sir Patrick Wright, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency, Mr. Denton Belisle and Mrs. Belisle were received in farewell audience by the Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Belize in London.

The Baroness Hooper had the honour of being received by the Queen upon relinquishing her appointment as a Baroness in Waiting to Her Majesty.

The Earl of Arundell had the honour of being received by the Queen upon his appointment as a Lord in Waiting to Her Majesty.

Sir Peter Scott had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour.

The Princess Royal this morning opened Alton Water.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Suffolk (Major General Jack Dye) and the Chairman of Anglian Water (Mr. B. Henderson).

Afterwards the Princess Royal attended the Second Foundation's Quatercentenary Celebrations at Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of Governors, Seckford Foundation (the Reverend Canon Brian Thompson).

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Margaret Young Home for Animals at the annual tri-service staff college dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Commodore J.J. Blackham, commodore of the college, presided and received the guests with Major-General C.J. Wilson and Air Vice-Marshal D.T. Bryant, commandant, RAF Staff College.

Among those present were: Admiral Sir William Stavely, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Poynter, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Lincoln, Major-General A.J. G. Pollard, Air Vice-Marshal B.H. Newton.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Major-General D.T. Cabre, Colonel of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), presided at the annual dinner held last night at Wadham College, Oxford.

No 101 Squadron Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beavis was the guest of honour at a dinner held at RAF Brize Norton yesterday. Wing Commander J.L. Upchurch, Officer Commanding, presided.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a dinner hosted by the Overseas Development Administration at Leeds Castle, Kent.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Minister for Overseas Development (Mr. Christopher Patten, MP).

The Princess Royal, attended by Mrs. Richard Carey Pole, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 10: The Princess and Prince of Wales, Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, this afternoon gave a Garden Party at Highgrove House for Farm Tenants and Staff of the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Duke of Devonshire at the Memorial Service for Sir Michael Woods which was held in All Souls' Church, Langham Place, W1 today.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited Glasgow and was received on arrival at the Airport by the Lord Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (The Right Hon. Robert Gray, the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness launched HMS Norfolk at the Yarrow Shipyard and was later entertained at luncheon by the Chairman and Managing Director of Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd (Mr. R.W.S. Easton).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of No 32 Squadron Royal Air Force, was attended by The Hon. Mrs. Whitehead and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 10: The Duke of Gloucester, President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, was present today at the Annual Conference of the International Federation of Keystone Youth Organisation at Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, travelled in an aircraft of No 32 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE July 10: The Duke of Kent today received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science of the Cranfield Institute of Technology at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Wiltshire.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Sir Richard Buckley.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent this evening entertained the Officers and Crew of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Schooner "Young Endeavour" at York House.

A memorial service for Major-General Frederick Joseph Loftus-Tottenham, will be held in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, on Saturday, July 18, at 11.30am.

### Service dinners

Tri-Service Colleges Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Defence Staff, was the principal guest at the annual tri-service staff college dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Commodore J.J. Blackham, commodore of the college, presided and received the guests with Major-General C.J. Wilson and Air Vice-Marshal D.T. Bryant, commandant, RAF Staff College.

Among those present were: Admiral Sir William Stavely, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Poynter, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Lincoln, Major-General A.J. G. Pollard, Air Vice-Marshal B.H. Newton.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Major-General D.T. Cabre, Colonel of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), presided at the annual dinner held last night at Wadham College, Oxford.

No 101 Squadron Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beavis was the guest of honour at a dinner held at RAF Brize Norton yesterday. Wing Commander J.L. Upchurch, Officer Commanding, presided.

### Anniversaries

Today BIRTHS: Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland (1306-1329), 1274; John Quincy Adams, 18th president of the USA (1825-29), Quincy, Massachusetts, 1767.

DEATHS: William Ernest Henley, poet, London, 1903; Alfred Dreyfus, French Army officer, wrongly imprisoned on Devil's Island for espionage, Paris, 1935; George Gerswhin, Hollywood, 1937; Sir Arthur Evans, archaeologist, Youghbury, Oxfordshire, 1941.

Tomorrow BIRTHS: Julius Caesar, Rome, 100 BC; Henry David Thoreau, writer, Concord, Massachusetts, 1817; Sir William Osler, physician, Bond Head, Canada, 1849; George Eastman, pioneer of photography, New York, 1854; Stefan George, poet, Budesheim, Germany, 1868; F.E. Smith, 1st Earl of Birkenhead, Lord Chancellor, 1919-22; Birkenhead, 1872; Amadeo Modigliani, painter, Leghorn, 1884.

DEATHS: Erasmus, Basel, 1536; Jean Picard, astronomer, Paris, 1682; Alexander Hamilton, American statesman, New York, 1804; Robert Stevenson, civil engineer, Edinburgh, 1850.

## Anthony Phillips

# Passion as the key to ministry

Ministry is the vocation of the whole people of God to live out their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. Quite simply, it is to be Him in His world.

For this there is no mysterious technique to be mastered: rather it is to be what we were created to be. Jesus is honoured as perfect man not because he turned his back on his humanity, but because he embraced it with a thoroughness none of us have dared to equal.

We are not then called to deny the world in the sense that we regard it as of no importance in our spiritual witness; rather we are to affirm its glory.

This does not mean that we become conformed to the world, those who would make the world their own. Our task is to acknowledge it as God's by bringing to it that wholeness, holiness whose delight he hymned in creation when he pronounced his work good.

This can only be expressed in poetic terms — for Isaiah in the vision of wild and domestic animals lying down together in peace and children playing in safety by snakes' nests (Isaiah 11:6-8). Ministry only fails when the faithful no longer have the courage to pray, pray with passion, "Thy Kingdom come".

For at the centre of all ministry there must be passion. Jesus wept. While ministry involves that total commitment to life which led Jesus to be condemned as a glutton and a wine-bibber, its very vulnerability leads to suffering.

There must be a nakedness about our ministry — the kind of nakedness for which man was created and of which, prior to his disobedience, he was not ashamed. Complete openness to the other, the refusal to cover up but rather to abandon oneself both to and for the other — that is to be the hallmark of Christian ministry. Of necessity this uncompromising starkness will be costly, but as Bonhoeffer knew, it must be costly because God's generosity cost a naked man his life.

Ministry then can never be comfortable. The words come cold and cheerless, and we prefer to ignore them: Take up your cross, and follow me. Ministry has to be lived out in the tension of being stretched on that bloodied wood. It is not a path for those who do not want to be troubled. It is based on painful failure.

But to look for any other way than the way of suffering is to mistake the very nature of the God who bids us follow. Ministry then is not about exercising power but surrendering all that one has and is to the transforming love of Him whose essential characteristic is his powerlessness. That is the risk to which the disciple is invited.

Recent debate about ministry has concentrated on its organisation rather than its nature — a vain search for methods which in the ever new situations facing the church would ensure survival. But ministry is not about survival, but death.

While current sociological, political and economic conditions inevitably shape the performance of the church's ministry, ministry itself remains unchanged. Wherever exercised, what is required is the listener who warms God's tragically frozen world. Sometimes there may be no answers, no hope this side of the grave. But there can be acceptance, sharing and love, laughter — and tears.

In the professions few today have the time to minister. Doctors prescribe, advocates plead, politicians debate, teachers inform. Who stops to let his own vulnerable self be threatened by the other, be stripped and stretched until very life is given?

Good works are not themselves sufficient, as the crucified one knew, man does not live by bread alone. The idyllic life of Isaiah's vision is not worked but died for. It would be convenient if it were other, but in baptism the signing of the cross makes clear the pattern of all ministry — the expression through us of the inexhaustible love of God for his beloved world confirmed by the crucifixion of his Son.

It is not a pretty sight. Few of us can look long at the limp body. For our own safety we take it down and bury it, and wear instead a cleaned and polished version of the instrument of torture emptied of all passion. Ministry consists of allowing our bodies to be that body. God's grace alone enables its fulfilment.

The writer is Headmaster of The King's School, Canterbury.

## OBITUARY

### PROFESSOR J.G. DAUNT

#### The physics of conductivity

Professor J. G. Daunt, who died on June 19 in Canada, at the age of 73, made outstanding contributions to the physics of very low temperatures. Paradoxically, it is this field of physics that has led to the recent important discovery of high-temperature superconductors.

During the Second World War Daunt worked for the Admiralty on detection systems.

John Gilbert Daunt was born on June 30, 1913, in Ireland. He was educated in England and took his MA and DPhil at Oxford. From 1937 to the outbreak of war in 1939 he worked at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, on low-temperature physics.

Probably his greatest contribution to science was his definitive work done with K. Mendelssohn on superfluidity in helium films at very low temperatures.

He also worked on superconductivity, which until a few years ago was an esoteric phenomenon observable only in suitably equipped laboratories. Now it is available in hospitals for whole-body electronic diagnosis, and in the past few months, with the discovery of superconductors near room temperature, it promises a revolution in the

technology of a wide range of electrical devices.

During the war Daunt worked for the Admiralty on the development of microwave and infra-red detection systems. He was a member of the Admiralty Committee on Radar Tube Development from 1941 to 1943, and chairman of the National Committee on Infra-red Detection from 1943 to 1945.

Soon after the war he left Britain for the United States, and was a professor at Ohio State University until 1965 and at Stevens Institute, Hoboken, New Jersey, from 1965 to 1978. Since 1975 he had been a professor at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Many honours were conferred on John Daunt including, in 1956, the Duddell Medal for Invention of Scientific Instruments by the Physical Society of London (now the Institute of Physics). He derived great pleasure from his Honorary Fellowship of Exeter College, Oxford, bestowed in 1979.

John Daunt was a private, but proud and determined man.

He married twice and had two daughters and one son by his first marriage.

### MR ANGUS MACKINNON

Mr Angus Mackinnon, DSO, MC, TD, who died on July 5, at the age of 76, had an outstanding military record in the Second World War and a distinguished career in the City.

He was born on February 20, 1911, and educated at Eton and Pembroke College, Oxford, where he read history.

He started his business life with Gray Dawes & Co, in 1932, and from 1933 until 1938 worked with the family firm of merchants, Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co, in Calcutta.

Returning home in 1938, he reacted to the general expectation of war by joining the Territorial Army and in 1940 was a subaltern with the 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, stationed, remote from the bulk of the British Expeditionary Force, among French units in the vicinity of Metz.

With the collapse of the French army the battalion found itself faced with a 400-mile march from the heart of Lorraine to the French coast. Mackinnon's inspiring conduct as a very junior officer in charge of one of its isolated detachments which might at any moment have been overwhelmed by rampaging German formations earned him the MC.

In the event, the 8th Argylls were evacuated from Le Havre only to be re-embarked at Cherbourg as part of a quixotic Churchillian plan to give diversionary help to the French in the Cotentin Peninsula.

Luckily the hopelessness of this idea was speedily perceived and the remnants of the 8th, including an understandably grateful Mackinnon, finally got back to England.

Later the Argylls were re-grouped and served in the Middle East from 1941 to 1943. During this time there Mackinnon was on Auchinleck's staff.

During the D-Day assault he was second-in-command of the 7th Battalion of the Argylls. In September 1944 he took command of the battalion, which was resting at s'Hertogenbosch, waiting for the assault on the Rhine frontier, when the storm of the German counter-offensive broke on the Americans in the Ardennes.

As part of British help in the effort to stabilise the situation the 7th Argylls were marched from Holland and thrown into

the battle which involved much stiff fighting in difficult terrain and bitter weather. For his leadership Mackinnon was awarded the DSO.

No sooner was this crisis over than the 7th was ordered back to Holland, and Mackinnon led it across the Rhine and remained in command to the end of hostilities, when the battalion accepted the surrender of the remnants of German corps near Bremen.

His war experiences had also included spending several days in an open boat after being torpedoed in a troop ship in the South Atlantic.

Mackinnon resumed his business career by joining the merchant bankers Brown Shipley & Co, in 1946, when the firm was in the process of changing from a partnership to a limited company.

He played an important part in the development of the business at a critical time, serving as its chairman from 1953 until 1963. He was chairman of Brown Shipley Holdings when the merchant banking group became a public quoted company in 1960. He remained a director of Brown Shipley & Co, until his retirement in 1976 and of Brown Shipley Holdings until 1981.

During this active business career he served as chairman of the Accepting Houses Committee (1967-1970); of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (1959-1975) and of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (1975-1977). He was a director of many other companies.

He brought his wide business experience to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital when he joined the board of governors in 1953. He took an active interest in its affairs and was chairman of the governors from 1969 to 1978. For many years he was also a governor of the Keil School in Dumbarrow.

He greatly enjoyed fishing and golf and in his hey-day was a first class shot. His wartime comrades will recall with amusement that as a soldier his approach was very much that of the businessman: the job had to be done as speedily and efficiently as possible. He had little time for that harmless pomp which accompanies some aspects of soldiering. It was noted that his kit was held up by braces.

He was married in 1947 and leaves his widow, Marsinah, and two sons.

### MR BERT TOFT

Bert Toft, the former England rugby player who died on July 7, at the age of 77, was a natural leader in his sporting and business life. Captaincy rode easily on his shoulders from his school days to England's national side in the late 1930s. He was also a headmaster and principal of two colleges of further education.

Henry Bert Toft was one of a succession of talented players to emerge from Lancashire. Born on October 2, 1909, he went to Manchester Grammar School and to Manchester University, both of whose rugby sides he captained.

He taught at his old school while pursuing a first-class rugby career with Waterloo, Lancashire, the Barbarians and England, for which he played as hooker ten times between 1936 and 1939.

He had a reputation as a speedy striker for the ball at a time when specialisation in the front row was becoming greater. His successful captaincy of Lancashire led to his leading England four times in 1938 and 1939 and he would have become a national selector in 1939 but for the Second World War.

He joined the RAF and served as a signals specialist, partly in the Shetlands when he helped to develop a system

to beat the beamed German bombing flight paths.

He had been appointed headmaster of the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, in 1939, and continued in the post afterwards. He also served as a Rugby Football Union selector between 1945 and 1952.

He later became principal of Bath Technical College but was subsequently director of a scientific apparatus firm.

At the same time he wrote for *The Observer* as chief rugby correspondent, displaying, in a 14-year association with the paper, deep insight.

He became principal of South-East Berkshire College of Further Education in 1962, subsequently retiring to Bosham, where he lived quietly with his wife, Lynn, who survives him, with two daughters.

Howard Teichmann, the American playwright who was co-author, with George S. Kaufman, of the comedy, *The Solid Gold Cadillac*, a big hit when it appeared in 1953, died in New York on July 7. He was 71.

Teichmann, a noted Broadway writer, also wrote a stage adaptation of Nathanael West's novel, *Miss Lonelyhearts*, and a biography of Kaufman, among his many works.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.D. Gritten and Miss N. Steel

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the late Mr Donald Gritten, MBE, and Mrs Stella Huber and stepson of Mr Leslie Huber, of Walton on the Hill, Surrey, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Sir David Steel, DSO, MC, and Lady Steel, of 51 Onslow Square, London, SW7.

Mr W.P. Barnance and Miss C.E. Croshaw

The engagement is announced between Bill, son of Mr and Mrs John Barnance, of North Brook, Illinois, and Nicola, daughter of Mr Charles Croshaw, of Little Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Ronald Dahl, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr L.R.C. Barn and Miss G. Kane

The engagement is announced between Ian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Barn, of Little Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mrs E.A. Kane, of Kensington, London.

Mr G.J.P. Coldwell and Miss M.L.D. Joked

The engagement is announced between Guy, son of the late Mr and Mrs James Coldwell, and Miranda, daughter of Mr Walter Joked, of London, NW8, and Mrs Carole Ann Kornhauser.

Mr R.J. Evans and Miss J.M. Jones

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Evans, of Penarth, South Glamorgan, and Jacqueline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Jones, of Penarth, Cardiff.

Mr J.S. Keeling and Miss E.A. Fox

The engagement is announced between Jim, seventh son of Mr and Mrs Michael Keeling, of Jacobs, Sedlescombe, Sussex, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fox, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr A.E. Mitchell and Miss J.L. Crookes

The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of the late Mr Patrick Mitchell, of Marbella, Spain, and Julia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Crookes, of Durtan, South Africa.

Mr D.J. Preston and Miss L.S. Bates

The engagement is announced between Duncan James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Hamish Preston, and Lorraine Sonia, second daughter of Dr Eric B. Bates, of Woking, Surrey.

Mr D.M. Warner and Miss M.M. Jackson

The engagement is announced between David Warner, The Parachute Regiment, youngest son of the late Mr R.M. Warner and Mrs Warner, of Bramhope, Leeds, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Jackson, of Leigh, Shropshire, Dorset.

### Marriages

Dr N.G. Clarke and Miss J. Solinger

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 23, 1987, at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Shipston-on-Stratford, of Dr Nicholas Clarke, second son of the late Mr Iain Clarke and of Mrs Joan Clarke, of Freshford, Bath, and Miss Jennifer Karin Solinger, youngest daughter of Meneer and Mevrouw David Solinger, of Schiedamschen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The Rev Graham Canning officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and attended by Miss Jennifer Monique Mesters. Mr Neil Twiggood was best man.

A reception at the Old Prebendal House, Shipston-on-Stratford, was followed by a dinner at the Bay Tree Hotel, Burford.

Mr D. McInnes and Mrs S. E. Patchett

The marriage of Mr David McInnes and Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Patchett (nee Rodges) was blessed at St George's Church, Hurstpierpoint, on June 26.

### Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr David Legg Croft, QC, and Mr Frank Brian Snedley, QC, to be circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr David Harris to be Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in succession to Mr Tony Baldry.

### Birthdays

TODAY: Air Marshal Sir Leslie Bower, 78; Mr Robert Compston, chairman, Time-Life International, 65; Mr Peter de Savary, company chairman and yachtsman, 43; Sir Kenneth Jones, QC, former legal adviser, Home Office, 77; Major-General E.S. Lindley, 85; Dame Margaret Miles, educationalist, 76; Sir John Rothwell, former director, Tate Gallery, 86; Mr G.D. Slaughter, headmaster, University College School, 51; Admiral Sir Peter Stanford, 58; Mr Derek Stevenson, former secretary, BMA, 76; Mr John Stride, actor, 51; Mr Gough Whitlam, QC, former Prime Minister of Australia, 71.

TOMORROW: Sir John Breenbridge, former chairman, Cathay Pacific Airways, 62; Sir Alastair Burnet, broadcaster, 59; Viscount Camrose, 78; Sir John Cuckney, chairman, Westland, 62; Mr Gareth Edwards, rugby player, 40; Sir John Gutch, colonial administrator, 82; Admiral Sir John Hamble, former chairman, British Gas, 76; Mr M.G. Matthews, director, Royal College of Music, 56; Mr Paul May, former deputy chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 80; Sir William Montagu, diplomat, 84; Professor Sir Randolph Quirk, president, British Academy, 67; Professor Sir Charles Stuart-Harris, physician, 78; Mr Harold Walker, MP, 60.

His descendants secured £1.5 million at Christie's yesterday by disposing of the last 14 pieces. The result tripled Christie's pre-sale estimates.

The collection spent 150 years at Marbury Hall, Cheshire. Some was sold in 1933 and some in 1946 after which the house itself was demolished.

They have a double significance in the history of taste, firstly as antique sculptures and secondly as eighteenth century collectors' pieces, heavily and imaginatively restored. The grand tour collectors thought nothing of adding heads, arms, legs and other missing pieces to their antique marble statues to make them look as good as new.

The top price in the sale was £242,000 (estimate £20,000-£30,000) for a Roman statue of a maenad, a life-size female attendant of Bacchus, dating from the second century AD. Her head is probably eighth-century. A Roman marble bust of the emperor Septimius Severus, which made £220,000 at Christie's yesterday.

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

James Hugh Smith Barry ran spectacularly into debt and disease in Naples during the 1770s in pursuit of his collection of Greek and Roman marbles.

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## TRAVEL 2

## Italy, family style

**Derrick Mercer finds a medieval treasure store in Tuscany**

Unless my family is unusual, holidays involve compromises. Beaches, of course – but not all day. Historic towns and works of art, certainly – but not in the sweltering heat of midday. Tranquillity, please – but not for the children, all the time. Good food and wine, absolutely – but not at tourist restaurants.

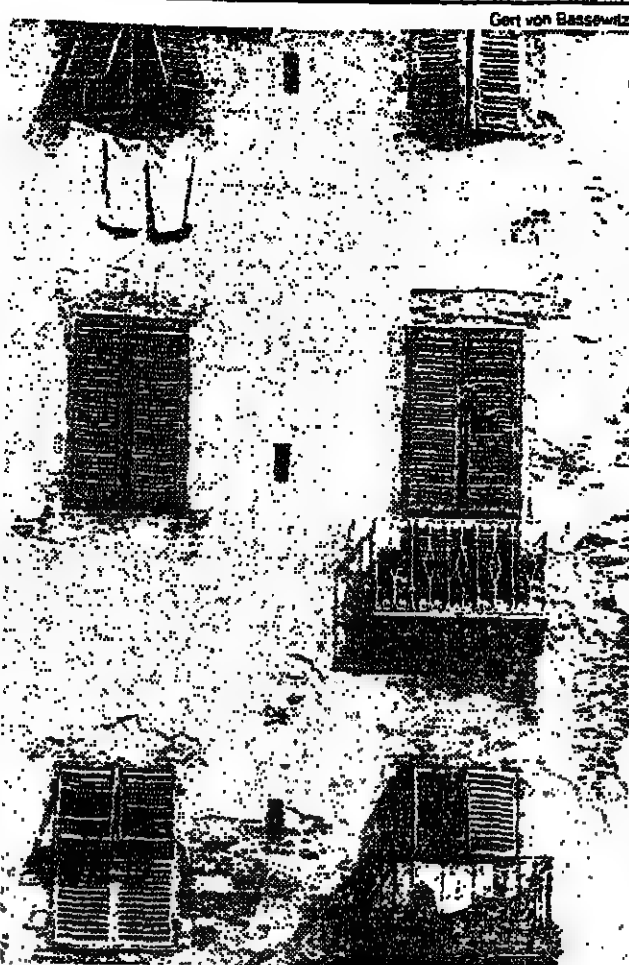
Lucca in Tuscany is ideally placed for any family of similar diverse tastes: 14 miles from Pisa, 20 miles from the beaches of Viareggio, 46 miles from Florence. San Gimignano, Siena, Volterra and Elba are all within two hours' drive, the spa of Bagno di Lucca and the Apuan Alps half an hour.

Lucca itself warrants much more attention than it receives: a medieval city encircled by tree-topped walls dating from the 16th century. For many centuries it was independent of Tuscany, a prosperous city-state which has left a legacy of Romanesque churches, palaces and tower houses. Dwarf oak trees grow on top of the Guinigi tower and provide shade for the most spectacular view of the city and its surrounding hills.

Mostly, though, Lucca is to be relished more for its unspoiled medieval character than any specific "sights". Half-hidden courtyards lead to classical gardens; carpenters and stonemasons still practise their craft in street workshops; frescoes can be glimpsed through windows.

Past prosperity enabled Lucca's wealthier families to build summer villas in the (relative) cool of the surrounding hills. A few of these houses or their gardens can be visited (such as Villa Masini), all near Marina – but check the often complicated opening hours. Other smaller villas can even be rented, at least in part.

I have stayed on two such estates north of Lucca in houses let by a Swiss company called Camolet, which op-



Cool louver: Lucca's inhabitants shut out the noonday heat



## TRAVEL NOTES

The Italian State Tourist Office, 1 Princes Street, London W1 (01-408 1254) can supply general information about Tuscany. In Lucca the tourist office is at 40 Via Vittorio Veneto near the Piazza Napoleone (0583 46915). Camolet publish a catalogue listing their self-catering properties. For further information, contact their London agents: Chapter Travel, 102 St John's Wood Terrace, London NW8 6PL (01-596 9451).

erates solely in Tuscany and Umbria. Both places were rather grand: one was a floor of a 15th-century Palladian-style villa, the other an outbuilding to a similar but even earlier villa.

For children, though, beaches are central to summer holidays. Viareggio is the best-known resort along what is known as the Versilian coast and it certainly has the smartest hotels. But if it is simply a sandy beach you are looking for, it may be slightly cheaper to try the adjoining resorts of Lido di Camaiore or Marina di Pietrasanta.

Eating and drinking are, generally speaking, better

away from the coast. Most of the holidaymakers on this stretch of the coast may be Italians, but a transient clientele does not keep restaurants on their toes.

No such problem at Trattoria La Mura, a one-star restaurant five miles north of Lucca at Sesto di Morlano. This specializes in regional food and stocks an array of wine which will confound those who know only chianti and contains real bargains.

Also recommended is Trattoria Vapore, in the hilltop hamlet of Pieve Santo Stefano, west of Lucca: simpler fare but a stunning view over the Serchio valley.

**Milton's spirit lives on at his old cottage, spruced up ready for the Queen next week**

When the Queen visits Milton's Cottage in Chalfont St Giles on Thursday, she will be continuing a long royal connection with this delightful literary shrine.

The Trust that opened it to the public was formed in honour of Queen Victoria's jubilee, and she herself contributed £20 to the appeal. The Queen Mother has visited twice, and in 1981 Princess Margaret was on hand at the Buckinghamshire village to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the building itself. The Queen's visit marks the centenary of the opening of the cottage to the public.

This surprising degree of royal attention may be something to do with its curator, Douglas Clark. He was a colonel in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, of which regiment the Queen is Colonel-in-Chief.

Clark is the most refreshing and unlikely custodian – a friendly, genial figure who greets visitors and can pitch his talk at just the right level to make them interested. His approach is especially successful with children, whose eyes would normally tend to glaze over at the mention of Milton.

Clark makes no claims to be a great Milton scholar: "I studied him for Matric and then forgot about him for 30 years" (of soldiering). But he and his wife have made a success of Milton's Cottage, which they took over 12 years ago when it was in a near-derelect state.

The garden was overgrown, the building was decaying and visitors had fallen to 6,000 a year. The cottage has now been restored, the number of visitors has doubled, and the garden, with its cottage flowerbeds, terraced lawns and gravelled walks, are an attraction in their own right. There is a disused well and some fine, gnarled apple trees.

The building itself was never anything grander than a tenant's cottage. Milton took it as a temporary bolt-hole when he fled the plague in



Cottage industry: top, Douglas Clark in the garden of Milton's home, and (above) the study

London in 1665. Blind, infirm, poor and depressed by the failure of the Cromwellian Commonwealth, he came here with his third wife and his youngest daughter. It was in this cottage that he finished his *Paradise Lost* and began thinking about *Paradise Regained*.

He would compose in his head, rising very early to take advantage of the peace and quiet, and later dictating to his daughter. It is probable that he spent his whole time downstairs, for the cottage would have had only a ladder leading to the upper floor. The study where he worked is now the nucleus of the museum. It contains rare early editions of his works and a profusion of portraits and busts.

Clark has written to foreign embassies all over the world to acquire translations of Milton in many languages – except Russian, as the Soviet Embassy was the only one to ask for a fee.

Also on show is a facsimile of that heartbreaking document whereby Milton sold the copyright in *Paradise Lost* for a lifetime return of £10, plus a further £3 to his widow.

The parlour, across the hall, contains a more general exhibition of the history of the

area, and is the room with most child-appeal, having a particularly well-equipped kitchen range with old cookery implements.

Milton's Cottage is best on a fine day, to take in the splendours of the garden. And do not leave without a look round Chalfont St Giles itself, a handsome but functional village with a small green and a tiny pond. There are five pubs and a good church. And if the place looks suspiciously clean and tidy at present, it just might have something to do with the royal visit.

Nigel Andrew

Milton's Cottage (02407 2313) is open until the end of October. Tues-Sat, 10am-1pm and 2-6pm; Sun 2-6pm. Closed Mondays (except bank holidays) Adult 60p, child 30p

## OUTINGS

**ROYAL WINDSOR ROSE SHOW:** Second day of the 83rd annual summer exhibition of the Royal Windsor Horticultural Society. 110 floral classes, also fruit and vegetables and 50 trade stands. The private grounds of Windsor Castle, Datchet Road entrance, Windsor, Berkshire. 9.30am-5pm. Adult £1.30, child under 16, 21.

**WELLINGTON COUNTRY FAIR:** Sports, country pursuits and entertainments, including clay pigeon and fly casting competitions, gun dog tests, target shooting, helicopter and pony rides. Grand ring events throughout both days – falconry flying, free-fall parachuting, horse driving, hound displays. Wellington Country Park, Stratfield Saye House, Stratfield Saye, Hampshire/Berkshire borders. (0734 35000) Today, tomorrow 9.15am-7pm. Adult £3, child £1. Car park free.

**TOWN HALL TATTOO:** Celebrations to commemorate the centenary of Barrow-in-Furness a civil municipal building. Street parties, dancing, open air choir, competitions, tugs of war, kite and huge fireworks display. Duke Street and Town Hall Square, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Tomorrow 1pm-5pm.

**TENDING HUNDRED SHOW:** Traditional agricultural show which concentrates on competitions and judging of animals, poultry and pigeons, a large horticultural market, ponies, horses, beagles and fox hounds. Lawford House Park, near Manningtree Essex. Today 8am-4pm. Adult £3, child £2.

**AMSTRAD COMPUTER SHOW:** More than 100 stands, user/demonstration sessions and a team of British experts to answer questions. Alexandra Palace and Park, Wood Green, London N22 (01-883 6477). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 10am-4pm. Adult £3, child under 16, 22.

**PIAT BRITISH OPEN PETANQUE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Friendly Petanque "Open" (southern French version of boules) goes on all day. Registration 9.30am-10pm. Wine, spirits and French food in the marquee. Bodiam Castle, Bodiam, (0856 083436). Entry fee for team of 3 £26, spectators free. Castle entrance, adult £1.20, child 60p.

Judy Froshaug

## IN THE GARDEN

## New space for old roses

**Francesca Greenoak sniffs the air at the Mottisfont collection**

Stepping through the gateway of the old walled garden at Mottisfont on a warm July day must rank among the world's most sensuous experiences. The air is thick with the combined scents of thousands of old roses, with the slightest breeze subtly blending new fragrances. The rose display – in pinks, creams, purples and whites – grows in bushes and tumps, rambles through old fruit trees, and clings to the high walls. In full summer bloom the rich rose colours are offset by the interplanting of foxgloves and pentstemons and other choice herbaceous plants.

The old kitchen garden, given to the National Trust, was made into a haven for



roses by the accomplished gardener and rosarian Graham Stuart Thomas in 1973. It was the ideal site for his exceptional rose collection: a sheltered enclosure with paths, beds, box hedges and sentinel fastigate yews. The Mottisfont roses (the National Collection for roses up to 1900) make a fine sight all

together but at the same time the individual character of each is clearly evident.

The former owner of Mottisfont, Mrs Gilbert Russell, retained part of the kitchen garden for her own use, but on her death in 1982 it came to the National Trust, and this week Graham Stuart Thomas opened the extension to the rose garden. About 200 roses, mainly from the German National Rose Collection at Sangerhausen in East Germany, are to be planted in the new garden, making Mottisfont one of the greatest collections of old roses anywhere in the world.

A pedestrian but invaluable attribute of this Mottisfont is the discreet and clear labelling of every rose. You won't learn cultivation tips here but you will discover things not easily

culled from books – the habit of growth, strong and weak features, drooping flower-heads on weak-necked stems perhaps, unsightly fadig, or a propensity to mildew.

At Mottisfont they spray frequently which – at risk of heresy – I would say is neither necessary nor desirable in a private garden. Most healthy roses can withstand a certain amount of pest or disease without suffering unduly. Perhaps on account of two bluest families I have been virtually untroubled by aphids this year, but I find it takes little time to pick a few of them off my most precious roses. I have a friend who failed to halt powdery mildew with repeated spraying and now leaves the plants to recover themselves without help, except for occasionally washing affected leaves with water. One thing I am always careful about is dead-heading, although even here, there are exceptions in areas I cannot reach and with kinds of rose such as *moyessi* and the *rugosus*, where the hips themselves are beautiful.

Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey, Hampshire. Grounds (including Rose Garden) open daily except Fri & Sat, 2-6pm (last admission 5pm). Entry £1.50. Rose Garden evenings 7-9pm Wed & Sun (please check before visit: 0794 40757).

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Angus: House of Pittulies, Guthrie, by Fortar; semi-formal old walled gardens, herbaceous borders, delphiniums a speciality. Interesting tunnelled dovecote; P. daily to August 17; 2-5pm.

**TOMORROW** Somerset: Hestercombe House, Cheddar Fitzpaine, off A361 due N of Taunton to Cheddar Fitzpaine; beautiful restoration of a Gertrude Jekyll, Edwin Lutyens garden; 2-6.30pm.

Sussex: Offham House, Offham, 2m N of Lewes, on A275; flowering trees, herbaceous borders, paeonies; 2-6pm.

North Yorkshire: Sutton Park, Sutton-on-the-Forest, 8m N of York on B1363; terraced garden, rose gardens, lilies, lily clumps, conifers; also open Tuesdays, until end of September; 1.30-5.30pm. Dyfed: Four Ashes, Coeshon, off A477 at Slade Cross opposite garden centre; 7-acre riverside garden, planned for year round interest; rare shrubs, conifers, heathers, roses, alpine ground cover; 1,000 varieties of trees and shrubs; 2-6pm.

Roy Hay

## WEEKEND TIPS

● Sow chicory, Swiss chard and spinach beet for autumn and winter eating.

● Take 3-4in sprigs of new growth (semi-ripe cuttings) of camelliar, rose, cotton lavender, clematis montana and ivy. Remove lower leaves, trim the heel, dip in hormone rooting powder and place in a shallow pot filled with peat and sand in equal parts.

● Increase strawberry stocks from healthy runners which should be gently held in place over pots filled with compost.

● Cut roses, and sweet peas to promote further flowering.

● After final pickings, take out low, crowded and crossed-over shoots from red and white currant bushes.

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## SHOPPING

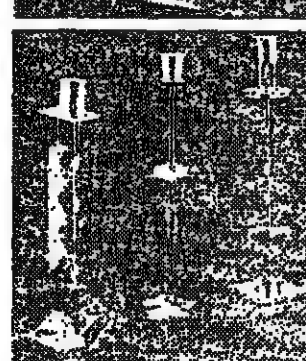
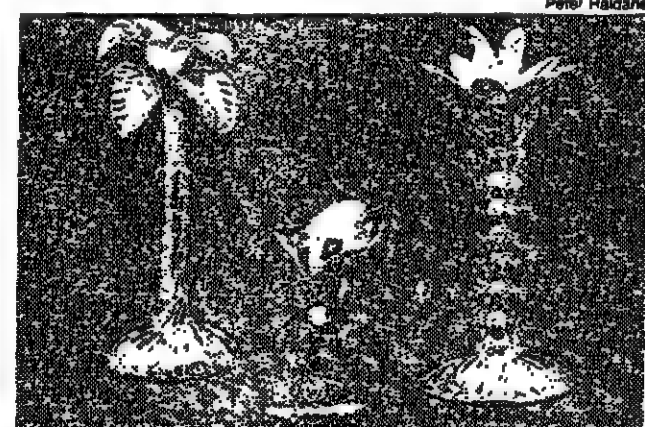
## How to hold a candle

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Nicole Swengley

Clockwise from top: palm tree, £45 a pair; lily, £19.95 a pair; pineapple tree, £45 a pair, all from Harvey Nichols. Aluminium candlesticks, £120 each, Liberty. Dove, £29.95 a pair, Harvey Nichols. Silvershade, Moonlight and Starlight candlesticks by Etore Cottass, £255 each, from Authentics. Ceramic dolphin, £46.50 a pair, General Trading Company.



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## EATING OUT

## Best possible taste.

Jonathan Meades samples the menu gastronomique at two restaurants and wonders why the idea of "tasting" has never caught on here as it has in France



But it has not caught on in this country. This may be because our classic chefs, French or not, are more modest than their numerous counterparts across the Channel, or it may be because they realize that a succession of small-portioned dishes which costs plenty is not likely to attract an audience raised on multi-dish Chinese or Indian or Greek meals.

Whatever the reason, the first division chefs in this country eschew the practice - which is almost bound to smack of kitchen tyranny, of the conviction that chef knows best. I was going to say that I had a memorable menu degustation at Jean-Marie Amat's St James, overlooking Bordeaux from the east bank of the Garonne, but only two dishes, shad roe cooked with pimenton (a mix of a Bordelais staple and a Basque spice) and steamed shad fillet, are actually memorable. Without looking it up I can't recall what else I ate.

I had that meal chez Amat 26 months ago. I went to Alex Aitken's Le Poussin in the New Forest seven days before writing this column. Without recourse to my notes I can recall three dishes, one of them on account of its parsimony. No doubt a time/dish/memory formula can be computed which would unfavourably compare Aitken with the cook who is responsible for the culinary rehabilitation of Bordeaux. But that wouldn't be quite fair, for Aitken must suffer the habitual provincial struggle to get good supplies of what, even at a place 240 times smaller than Bordeaux (as Brockenhurst is), are French norms.

Many cooks outside London tend to over-emphasise flavours in order to render them more "exotic", more special. Aitken suffers no such failure of nerve, tending rather to a would-be metropolitan sophistication. Indeed, he kicks off his menu with a dish of such lush banality - smoked salmon and lobster

salad - that you are bound to wonder if it is an over-elaborate joke.

This is pursued by a show of cleverness which is about as satisfying as an exhibition by a rubber-jointed contortionist - great, but what's the point? The dish was asparagus mousse with asparagus spears with asparagus sauce and was a neat exercise in asparagus use, but no more.

The first memorable dish followed: *al dente* bits of sole, wrapped in spinach, with orange butter sauce. There was a water ice allegedly of claret but tasting of muddled anything and only to be essayed, initially, by punters with a full complement of nervous clackers, by the time it was tooth-friendly it was mush. All these dishes had been "explained" by a pleasant girl with the manner of an air hostess.

For the main course Mr Aitken himself strode through the pink and pine and roughcast of his thriving dining room and announced that

priced bottles on a dead serious list - you'll pay about £80.

Le Mazarin is a Pimlico basement run and cooked by René Bajar "in association" with the Roux Brothers. The card on every table proclaims this happy link. Astonishingly I detected only one photograph of the ubiquitous brothers, usually any restaurant "associated" with them is knee-deep in what can only be called Rouxolatrous icons. Unastonishingly the wine list is exclusively French, exclusively priced - this combination of vinous chauvinism and creative mark-up is one of the brothers' less endearing traits.

But they do train some fine chefs. Bajar among them. He sticks to his mentors' style, and dishes such as truffled Lyon sausage with potato salad are typical of the souped-up bourgeois manner that is the Roux hallmark. It was delicious - which cannot be said of a piece of onion (beef flank) with a shallot and wine sauce - the meat was hung to the point of gaminess and was stringy, the sauce was aggressive.

There were no such mishaps on the tasting menu: foie gras with a splendidly dressed salad; steamed brill in a light tomato vinaigrette flavoured with fennel sprigs; a melon sorbet; veal in a marginally too alcoholic chateaufort sauce with excellent, succulent and higher baby-food mousses of spinach and carrot; a strawberry mousse like a set fool with a mint custard. All this was fairly impressive and would have been actually enjoyable had it been eaten in other surroundings. But the surroundings at Le Mazarin are your fellow diners, with whom you are forced into unwanted intimacy. There is simply not room for all the covers it greedily seeks to serve. It's also distressingly hot £70.

Le Poussin 57 Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, Hants (0590 23063), 12.30-2pm Tues to Sat, 7-10pm Mon to Sat.  
Le Mazarin 30 Winchester Street, London SW1 (01-828 3396), 7-11.30pm Mon to Sat.  
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## THE ARTS

## Back to the past

Amateurs of ancient Hollywood will have had a belated last night. The second instalment of *The RKO Story* (BBC2) picked up the narrative in the early 1930s, when the studio was saved from financial ruin by the success of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Copious extracts from their more imperishable dance routines were interspersed with clips of Astaire's early films. The Californian climate certainly seems to act as a preservative.

## TELEVISION

of human tissue, if not to say a restorative. Astaire, in his last interview, was seen to have more hair on his head than 50 years ago.

This episode was predictably hagiographical, and dwelt on such minutiae as a freeze-frame of a single ostrich feather (helpfully haloed) drifting from one of Miss Rogers's more exotic costumes in the course of an energetic swirl. It also blithely took the values of show business at face value. The producer, Paolo S. Berman, we learnt, "reversed the whole psychological situation of the times" — an achievement which FDR himself would have been pushed to match. Pressed to accept that his movies were Art, Astaire defiantly rejoined: "We just wanted to make a buck."

The maker of one of the home movies featured here returned as the subject of a very lengthy *Omnibus* (BBC1). The story of George Gershwin's rise from juvenile roller-skating champion of 7th Street to revered composer of "serious" music is itself the stuff of showbiz mythology. The ebullient Irving Caesar was wheeled out yet again to bellow: "We wrote 'Swanee' in 10 minutes. Ten minutes!" — and one has to say that his lyrics have always suggested such a time span. Gershwin himself was obviously a genius of sorts, but it took some bracingly acerbic remarks from Virgil Thomson to strike a balance. The rest of it was epitomized by Leonard Bernstein claiming to be able to recognize a Gershwin piece "from the first chord — in the dark" and by the respectful voice-over announcing that "Ira and George would make history". At the end of 90 minutes we were still waiting for the evidence.

## Martin Cropper

Below: Richard Morrison previews tomorrow's transmission of *The Gershwin Years*

His NBC broadcasts 40 years ago made Toscanini a culture god. Joseph Horowitz examines how it was done

## Conducting Toscanini

Toscanini had tolerated no rivals. At the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic, and NBC, Gustav Mahler, Wilhelm Mengelberg, Wilhelm Furtwängler, and Leopold Stokowski had challenged his authority and lost. Meanwhile, Toscanini had been tended and attended by Giulio Gatti-Casazza, Arthur Judson, and Samuel Chotzloff.

From these obstacles and supports, David Sarnoff, president of NBC, stood apart. Unlike Gatti-Casazza and Judson, he did not administer at Toscanini's mercy. Unlike Otto Kahn and Clarence Mackay, he was no behind-the-scenes Maecenas. To Sarnoff, Toscanini was an honoured receptacle for certain of Sarnoff's own communications dreams. The Toscanini token validated his publicized personal mission to see broadcasting become a supreme "cultural service" for "millions of homes".

In contrast to Toscanini's previous employers, Sarnoff attended Toscanini from on high, autocrat to autocrat. Then, when certain Sarnoff dreams shifted so that Toscanini was no longer their fit receptacle, Sarnoff disposed of Toscanini. A proper Toscanini post mortem must consider, more than Toscanini's achievements, what Sarnoff achieved with his "Toscanini". To study the Toscanini-Sarnoff relationship is to study the relationship between Toscanini and the New World.

Sarnoff was self-taught, pragmatic, efficient, restlessly energetic, quickly decisive — the embodiment of the self-made man, "the incarnation of the American dream". According to his biographer Carl Dreher, who worked under him at NBC, he "rarely allowed himself an idle, unoccupied moment. For him, no card play, no golf, little escape of any kind".

Sarnoff could not but identify with Toscanini the self-made man and tyrannical democrat. From the first, Toscanini was hailed in the American press for combining inspiration with practicality. "Common sense," "efficiency" and "objectivity" were among the cited Toscanini virtues. Toscanini was touted as a new breed of conductor reflecting a

newly rational age; Sarnoff was touted as a new commercial breed — a practical idealist.

A tribute to Sarnoff by MIT's Jerome Wiesner paraphrased the terms in which Toscanini's greatness was first framed: "The greatness of David Sarnoff lies in his combination of a visionary and determined builder and hard-headed industrial leader. He was among the first to recognize the role that science could play in modern industry and to stake his future entirely on its promise."

In 1927 Sarnoff himself wrote: "The needs of the times will bring forth perhaps a new type of executive, trained in a manner not always associated with the requirements of business management. He will have to reckon with the constant changes in industry that scientific research is bringing."

Max Smith had acclaimed Toscanini for his "neatness, order, punctiliousness". Sarnoff doubtless admired in Toscanini his tenacity and authority, and the down-to-business work habits. Of Sarnoff's style of leadership, Carl Dreher wrote: "We were always conscious that we fell short of our full capability, as he did not. Thus, when we failed him, we feared not only his contempt, but our own towards ourselves."

When Toscanini died, Sarnoff wrote: "He not only mastered in every detail the music he was performing, but he also made himself the master of the human forces he was directing. Orchestras played better for him than they thought they could; vocalists sang for him as if possessed — which indeed they were."

The methodological affinities binding Toscanini and Sarnoff ran deep as their rude, subtle personalities. Ever reliant on his own bootstraps, Toscanini had something like the fervent, New World naïveté bred of Sarnoff's self-sufficiency. Much as Sarnoff's idealism stoked enough brass confidence to simplify the job and get it done, the power of Toscanini's textual fidelity creed lay in its innocence, which bypassed moderation and worldly doubt.

At the same time, something more than a flattering, inspiring mirror-image magnetized Toscanini in Sarnoff's eyes. As a self-made leader, Toscanini stood for qualities Sarnoff personified: as an entrenched culture bearer, he stood for something Sarnoff lacked.

Sarnoff's oft-declared devotion to a "radio art" that would "elevate civilization", while relieving the isolation of small towns and farms was one attempt to fill the "hollow" inside him. On the defensive, he conceded that broadcasting could not "hope to thrill the intellectually overfed". But at times his own dreams must also have seemed short-changed by the surfeit of crooners, comics, and commercials. His contribution to radio programming, as he saw it, was to have NBC broadcast learned fare and "the greatest artists the world has to offer". In particular, he took credit for having Toscanini conduct on NBC. As significant, he reached out to Toscanini the man.

Beyond NBC's image, Toscanini enhanced Sarnoff's self-image. With his appetite for public recognition, Sarnoff neglected no opportunity to identify himself as the man who returned Toscanini to America, and also as a man after Toscanini's heart. His well-publicized reply to Toscanini's retirement letter, refulgent with his own sense of importance, chiefly strove to perpetuate the Sarnoff-Toscanini equation. Late in life, after Toscanini's death, Sarnoff called the Toscanini-NBC affiliation his "main object of pride". As his brass self-sufficiency, his drive for achievement, his material success, his "hollow" were not unique, it was a pride in which all America could share.

Sarnoff's procurement of Toscanini, an inspired personal gesture, at the same time echoed timeworn practices of New World importers and consumers of Old World art.

Once persuaded that Toscanini would never settle for mere enlargement of the existing studio band, Sarnoff moved boldly to secure the best available talent for the NBC Symphony. This was the positive side of his ambitiousness. What tarnished and sometimes negated it were



Culture to the masses: Toscanini on television and, right, Sarnoff introduces the first Toscanini telecast in 1948

countless rudenesses of style and policy.

Put another way, Sarnoff's idealism moved in fits and starts. His influential opposition to public, noncommercial broadcasting shifted the burden of responsibility for premium fare on to swash-buckling "practical idealists" like himself. Manfully self-reliant, he abjured soliciting someone else's integrated cultural purview to shape, refine, and simplify his intuitive vision of "radio art". Rather, he thrived on the impact of moving in fast and pouncing decisively. His best instincts were noble yet lacked a sound intellectual base. Thinking himself audacious, he betrayed a consumer's susceptibility to brand names: Beethoven and Brahms, Darnowski and Toscanini.

With characteristic aplomb, he initially envisioned hiring the 70-year-old Toscanini not merely to head NBC's new orchestra but to oversee all its "serious music". Given Toscanini's arthritic, Eurocentric repertoire, he was an illogical, even impossible candidate. But Sarnoff's self-reliance, a form of hubris, made him an unreliable entrepreneur.

A scathing summation of the fate of symphonic music on American commercial ra-

dio was delivered in 1951 by the conductor Howard Barlow. In his opinion, the networks were basically indifferent to programme content: "Their ideal was to have all their time sold, so that there was no sustaining (i.e. non-commercial) time at all."

Transplanted to the air, the concert hall milieu was buffeted, and finally smothered, by changeable corporate brainstorms and trade winds. The case of Toscanini traces the transformation. His 68-year career was progressively flanked by radio and recordings, music appreciation and organized audiences, press releases and mass-circulation magazines.

He had reorganized La Scala to make opera the aesthetic hallmark of contemporary Italy. At the Metropolitan Opera, too, he had superintended every detail of production. At Salzburg he had fashioned a defiant yet exquisite cultural leave-taking. Even at the New York Philharmonic, where the music salesman Arthur Judson presided when Toscanini was away, the spreading panoply of commercialism did not yet smother the orchestra, the audience, and the music. To these earlier episodes of the Toscanini career, his NBC

employment formed a peculiar coda.

Olin Downes, in a Sunday *New York Times* column a week after Toscanini's farewell, called "the termination of Toscanini's engagement with the NBC Symphony" the "summit of his career, if not the sum of his achievement". Toscanini's obituaries three years later traced the curve of his career as a steady ascent to NBC stardom. Sarnoff, in a 1963 radio tribute, said: "I have been told by music experts and by music lovers that the Toscanini years at NBC... constituted the high water mark of musical performance in America, probably in the whole world." Four years later, in a 100th anniversary tribute, Sarnoff wrote: "Many people regard the years 1937 through 1954, when the NBC Symphony Orchestra performed under the direction of Arturo Toscanini, as the

golden age of the symphony orchestra in America."

Notwithstanding Sarnoff's vaunted "sense of history," his Toscanini appraisals were typically shortsighted. His sense of history, characteristically American, overlooked the past; it encompassed neither Toscanini's history nor America's own. Though he was correct to sense that Toscanini's NBC tenure represented a historical benchmark, it was chiefly "most productive" in an ironic sense: in marking the genesis of the radio concert hall as a species of mega-concert burying music, it instilled a model that would come to dominate music making in all its venues.

This edited extract has been taken from *Understanding Toscanini* by Joseph Horowitz, published on July 20 by Faber and Faber, £20.

© Joseph Horowitz 1987

Gershwin celebrations on stage and television

## Lady is good

## Lady Be Good Guildhall School

The Guildhall School of Music and Drama have found a corner all their own in the current hurly-burly of Gershwin celebrations. It was on their boards that Fred Astaire tapped away a good few of his student days in London, while introducing to the capital the first musical in which Gershwin had teamed up with brother Ira, *Lady Be Good*.

It turned out to be an ideal end-of-term showcase. The cast and the work do each other good: the scale is right, the songs arrive punctually on cue, and the college blazers are a perfect fit for a genuinely wide-eyed, fresh-faced team. Saul Radomsky has provided

a clean, bright set of pink satin, green grass and white weatherboard which moves slickly and will travel well when the show transfers to Cambridge in a week's time.

The small and slippery space threatens occasionally to make those rhythms just a little too fascinating; but the odd scuff is a small price to pay for stylish, cliché-free choreography (Gerry Tebbutt). Simon Waters as Dick Trevor is a convincing enough Astaire look-alike; feet and larynx hold up well, and Michael Omer, the musical director, succeeds in persuading him and his candy-voiced Susie (Dawn Lisell) to persuade us that there really is no sensation like syncope.

The show really takes off, though, at the entry of Watty



Gershwin: tributes all round. Watkins. Clive Rowe's superbly sprung verbal timing makes up for some of the songs' shortfall in sheer dramatic momentum. His bullfight monologue is a *tour de force*: it's a pity, as he'd say, when "Hacienda la story". He can sing, too; and so, memorably, can Nigel Richards as Jeff, the catty entertainer. Between them, they work the nerve and muscle of a show well worth following.

Hilary Finch

## George upstaged

The subject of *The Gershwin Years* (tomorrow, BBC2, 7.45pm) might be the aspiring American tunesmith who died 50 years ago today, but there can be little doubt that it is another aspiring American musician who is the star of this 90-minute spectacular (part two, looking at the later music including *Porgy and Bess*, follows next Sunday). Michael Tilson Thomas narrates the programme; he seems to be conducting orchestras on both sides of the Atlantic; he whisks briskly through the *Rhapsody in Blue* solo part; he even demonstrates the niceties of early jazz-piano style — thumb-lines, stride-basses, the lot — as though he had just graduated from a 1920 song-plugger's parlour.

It is a casually brilliant exhibition, easily upstaging contributions from the likes of Madeline Kahn, Cleo Laine, Nigel Kennedy and Leonard Bernstein — no mean feat. Whether the LSO players (also featured prominently) have found a top-notch principal conductor is not proven, but they certainly have a media star on their hands.

The programme is an ingenious meshing of studio performances in London with footage (a bit "back of the dress-circle" at times) of a

Gershwin gala at the Brooklyn Academy in New York. It is the latter that provides most of the glamour, and the kitsch: wonderfully hackneyed parol dances, big production numbers (including the dazzling complex Radio City routine, *The King of Swing*), close-harmony smoothies and sweaty hooters — no ingredient of the classic Broadway musical seems to have been overlooked.

Madeline Kahn's oddly prim performances are a passing mystery, but Julia Migenes's studiously innocent delivery of that delicious line "where is the shepherd for this lost lamb?" is worth waiting for.

Tilson Thomas's narration has its flightier moments ("a figure of mystery, gregarious yet solitary, a piano player alone in the night"), but his enthusiasm is infectious and his musical insight obviously considerable. Along the way, Gershwin's first piano-rollo ("Rialto Ripples") and some of his early orchestrations are resuscitated. *The Gershwin Years* might seem unable to decide whether to be scholarly or showbiz, but George Gershwin had that problem, too.

Richard Morrison

## OPERA

## Fidelio Covent Garden

After the storm of the first night comes the calm of revival, a bit too much calm in fact. When the curtain came down almost exactly a year ago on Andrei Serban's Blakeian vision of *Fidelio*, in what was clearly an unfinished production, there was an outburst of booing. Only a few, among them Paul Griffiths on this page, were ready to acknowledge the originality of Serban's portrayal of a merciful heaven and a hell on earth; the rest decided to opt for easy derision.

Serban seems to have taken fright at such hostility. This week's revival is billed as "a revised production", which is putting it very mildly indeed. Rarely has a staging at Covent Garden changed so much in a twelvemonth. The second act especially is virtually unrecognizable from what was previously on view. Gone, happily, are the devils on stilts who came to carry off Pizarro. Gone, less happily, are the heavenly avengers. Gone is *Leonore No 3* and the accompanying ballet. The vision has been clipped.



Klaus König, vocally disappointing, and Elizabeth Connell

Serban still uses a strange, and only intermittently successful, amalgam of realism and dream: pots of bright geraniums for Rocco's garden and real earth for Florestan's grave, while Angels of Mercy illustrate Leonore's thoughts. It is, presumably, the clash of man's finer feelings against reality. The production now relies heavily on fancy lighting and stylized gesture; it reaches its twin peaks in the Prisoners' Chorus and the closing scene, both of which are magnifi-

cantly staged. Elsewhere there is an uncharacteristic blandness and a feeling that the Serban *Fidelio* has been shifted away from William Blake to the direction of *Die Zauberflöte*.

Siegfried Nimsgern's Don Fernando is almost a Sannuro figure, carrying the scales of justice and little else. Robin Leggate's Jaquino and Yvonne Kenny's Marzelline (the voice now a bit full for the role) are neat *Singspiel* characters. Gwynne Howell's Rocco is a similarly lightweight and genial; Hartmut Welker's Pizarro is close to becoming the Demon King.

The main vocal disappointment of the evening is Klaus König's Florestan, who may look appropriately grey and haggard after his years underground, but alas showed a voice to match — as dry and spindly as old firewood. A disappointment after his Tannhäuser here. Elizabeth Connell's Leonore a year on still offers more promise than achievement: the good intentions are there but the glow of impassioned determination for "Abscheuliches" has yet to come. As last time round, the main musical honours go to Sir Colin Davis and the orchestra after a distinctly sticky patch at the start of the evening.

John Higgins

## THEATRE

## Fathers and Sons Lyttelton

When there are so many well-known Russian plays that the National has not produced, when there are numerous plays by 19th century Russian authors, early and late, that have not been seen within living memory, when there is even Turgenev's own play *A Month in the Country*, with its exquisite emotional perceptions decades ahead of its time, what can possibly be the reason for choosing one of his novels, engaging the admirable Irish dramatist Brian Friel to fashion a play from it, and giving the full Lyttelton treatment to a piece that is neither truly Turgenev, true Friel nor truly a cohesive work?

*Fathers and Sons* was the novel that presented literature with the first nihilist, the moody, short-tempered, sci-

entifically rational Bazarov who preached the rejection of art and civilization in a manner that dismayed readers in 1862 but which now appears antiquated and slender. Emotions he particularly scorned, and he abuses his pale disciple Arkady (here played by Ralph Fiennes) for exhibiting thoughtless family love.

And what happens to the resolute Bazarov? In the course of a long summer holiday from his medical studies he falls in love with an eminently suitable woman, is foolishly rejected by her and goes off to die in a typhus epidemic.

Despite the praise attached to this novel by literary critics and other villains, it has always seemed to me that the nature of Bazarov eludes the reader, and Friel fares no better in opening his character to us, doing no more than indicating where an opening might be found: in the strangled and inexpressible love for his own foolish family.

Arkady and Bazarov are the sons, and the action of the

play has been restricted to the homes of their fathers, the courtyard of a crumbling estate and the dining table of a retired army doctor.

I am at a loss to understand the artistic function of the soaring fences that wall off the foreground from the wide steppes beyond. One would not expect much of Turgenev's evocation of landscape to be incorporated in the dialogue but the severe exclusion of it in Carl Toms's sets emphasizes nothing else to take its place.

A few years ago Friel placed *Three Sisters* in an Irish setting with considerable success but no attempt is made to do the same here. Nor is it easy to imagine it possible, though one of the servants given a Welsh accent and another, whose hair Turgenev described as "streaky", appears with it dyed into puce stripes — all the rage in Petersburg, we are ridiculously told.

Michael Rudman directs the play and has been able to lure Alec McCowen to the National to play Arkady's

father Nikolai. It is good to have him there and I hope he will be given a part more likely to reveal his powers.

In the meantime it is at least very pleasant to hear the way he delivers a speech, all but pronouncing the commas around a subordinate clause, and sending his sentences off like rustic pathways over uneven ground, climbing a little, descending and making ingenious circles around curious features.

Bazarov is the other character who delivers long speeches, Robert Glenister brings to the role an impressively smouldering intensity, and his sentences one can picture as narrow roads hurtling dead straight to a vanishing point.

A pathetic *Te Deum* sung by his stricken parents is an incident that recreates in dramatic terms a mood in the novel. Joyce Grant brings welcome laughter as an eccentric Princess who speaks as if Dickens had written the elocution lessons for Eliza Dolittle.

Jeremy Kingston

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## BRIDGE

## Spain's star

The Spanish men's team will not start as one of the favourites in the Open series in the European Championships, which take place in Brighton from August 1-14. No other team, however, will be represented by a player of greater experience than Joel Tarto, now 82, who after extensive trials qualified to play for Spain with Desmond Deszy, the former Irish international.

Joel Tarto, who has represented Great Britain in the European Championships on many occasions, gave up a successful practice as a solicitor to indulge his passion for golf in the inviting Spanish climate. He and his wife Pym, a former barrister, live near Marbella, where Joel is regarded as the bridge authority.

Joel's fine tournament record stretches back to victory in the Gold Cup in 1939. Twenty-four years later, he was a member of the last British team to win the European Championship in Baden Baden, in 1963.

Guy Ramsey, writing about Joel in 1955, described him as an extrovert. Comparing him with his younger brother Louis, Ramsey suggested that "Joel's approach is the more forceful and, in the good sense, the more showy". He cited this hand as an example of Joel's imagination in the bidding and his mastery in the play.

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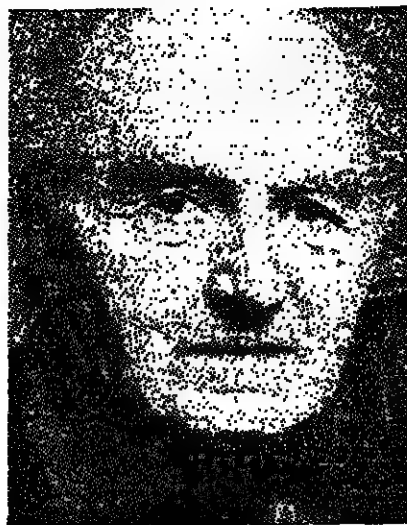


## THE WEEK AHEAD



## GALLERIES

**BEAUTIFUL SCHEMER:** Linda Sutton won £1,000 for a picture called *Tiger Triptych* in the current Royal Academy Summer Show. It continues a theme of the dreaming and scheming of a long-legged blonde who resembles the artist. An exhibition of Sutton's steamy, humorous fantasies is showing alongside paintings by fellow Academy exhibitors at Joneigh Gallery, Womersley, Guildford (0483-893177), Wednesday to Saturday, 11-12.30pm and 2-5pm, free. Until August 1. From today.



## TELEVISION

**TRYING TIMES:** Maurice Danheim, a fine character actor who has done everything from Shakespeare to *ITMA*, plays the former Gestapo chief, Klaus Barbie, in a dramatization of the trial which finished last week in Lyons. Ray Jenkins based his screenplay on transcripts of shorthand notes taken in the courtroom and sent over daily to England. *The Trial of Klaus Barbie* also stars John Stride as the prosecuting counsel and David Calder as the defence lawyer. BBC2, Wednesday, 9.25-10.50pm.



## DANCE

**FONTEYN'S FOOTSTEPS:** Natalia Makarova has a busy week with London Festival Ballet. In the new production of Ashton's *Apparitions* (Mon, Tues) she dances the role created for Margot Fonteyn. The same programme sees her also as producer of *La Bayadere*. Another new role for her follows (Wed, Thurs) in a duet to Tchaikovsky's *Meditation for Violin and Piano*. On July 18, she appears once more as Tatiana in *Olegin*, this time with Ivan Liska from the Hamburg Ballet. London Coliseum (01-836 6131)



## RADIO

**GUITAR MAN:** Eric Clapton is the subject of a six-part documentary series which traces his career from 1965, when he started out with R&B no-hopers The Roosters, to the recent receipt of a special BPI award for "outstanding services" to music. Clapton is interviewed, and Pete Townshend, George Harrison and Steve Winwood give their appreciation of an artist who changed the face of rock guitar playing and, in "Layla", submitted a classic for posterity. Radio 1, today, 2-3pm, repeated Thursday 9pm.



## BOOKS

**SUBLINE AMATEUR:** Sir Pelham Warner, as much as anyone, symbolized the amateur spirit in English cricket. In *Gentlemen and Players* (Grafton, £14.95) Michael Marshall, MP for Arundel, looks back on the amateur-professional divide with the help of more than 100 English cricketers and our best cricket writers, who reminisce and tell anecdotes about the daff days when gentlemen and players left the pavilion by separate exits, changed in different dressing-rooms and stayed in different hotels.



## THEATRE

**PAINFUL STEPS:** Imelda Staunton plays one of the young misfits who enters the Los Angeles marathon dance contest in Horace McCoy's play, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* Filmed in 1969 with Susanannah York and Jane Fonda, it is a bleak tale of American hopes and fears during the Depression of the 1930s and is the opening production of the RSC's American season. The director is Ron Daniels. Marmad Theatre, Puddle Dock, London EC4 (01-236 5568), opens Thursday after previews.

## THEATRE OPENINGS

**THE CANTERBURY TALES:** New Vic touring production of Chaucer stories, adapted by Phil Woods and Michael Bogdanov and directed by Bogdanov, brought in for a summer season. Prince of Wales (01-839 5987). Previews today, Mon-Thurs. Opens Fri.

**CORPSE:** Gerald Moon's comedy thriller, as seen at the Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, 1984/5, back in a new touring production featuring Colin Baker and Jack Welling, directed by the author. Strand (01-836 2660). Opens Tues.

**FOLLIES:** London premiere of musical by Stephen Sondheim (new book by James Goldman), first produced in 1971 on Broadway. Mike Ockrent directs Julia McKenzie, Diana Rigg, Dolores Gray, Daniel Mays, David Healy, Leonard Sachs, Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson. Margaret Courtenay, Lynda Barron, Maria Charles. Sondheim has written some additional songs. Shaftesbury (01-379 5399). Previews today, Mon-Fri, July 18, 20. Opens July 21.

**MEAN TEARS:** Peter Gill directs his own new play, about "the love affair of two men, and some women, in London now". Bill Nighy, Karl Johnson, Robert Cooper. Cottesloe (01-928 2252). Previews Thurs, Fri, July 18, 20, 21. Opens July 22 in repertory.

**LONDON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE:** Fourth annual celebration of international and inter-cultural diversity has attracted drama, dance, opera, cabaret and multi-disciplinary work from 13 countries. Three-week programme includes workshops, discussions, as well as performances. Information Line: 01-379 0769. Opens Mon until Aug 2.

## OUT OF TOWN

**EXETER:** Joking Apart: Alan Ayckbourn's typically sour comedy, presented by the resident company. Northcott, Stocker Road (0392 54853). Opens Tues.

**NOTTINGHAM:** To Kill a Mockingbird: Christopher Sergel's stage adaptation of Harper Lee's novel, set in Alabama 1935, has Dave King as the white lawyer defending a black man accused of raping a white girl. Playhouse (0602 419419). Until July 25.

## CONCERTS

**MEDICI MUSIC:** Mozart's Quintet K516, Brahms's Piano Quintet, Grieg's Sextet are performed by the Medici Quartet and others. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-835 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

**NORRINGTON/NOCS:** Roger Norrington conducts the National Centre for Orchestral Studies Symphony Orchestra in Stravinsky's *Faux of artifice*. Mahler's Symphony no 5, and Mozart's Violin Concerto K 219 (soloist, Mayumi Fujikawa). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**CALIFORNIA BRAHMS:** Nick Strimble conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Brahms's Tragic Overture, then the Choral Society of Southern California and soloists are added for *A German Requiem* (sung in English). Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

**WORDSWORTH/LCO:** Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, Suppé's *Light Cavalry* Overture, Grieg's Piano Concerto (Craig Sheppard, soloist), Strauss's *Emperor Waltz*, Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty Waltz* etc. are performed by the London Concert Orchestra conducted by Barry Wordsworth. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-828 8795, cc 01-838 8891). Thurs, 7.45pm.

**PROM 1:** The 93rd season of Proms starts with Sir John Pritchard conducting the

BBC SO in Janáček's *Sinfonietta*. Then massed vocal forces are added for Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*. Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-589 9465). Fri, 7.30pm.

## FILMS

**AN AMERICAN TAIL (U):** The adventures of an immigrant mouse in New York, relayed in sturdy, old-fashioned animation by former Disney artist Don Bluth. The story, though, springs no surprises. Produced by Steven Spielberg's company. Plaza (01-437 1234), from Fri.

**TAKE IT EASY (PG):** Olympic medalist Mitch Gaylord makes his bid for movie stardom in a thick slice of hokum about an athlete torn between family responsibilities and competitive gymnastics. Odeon Kensington (01-802 6844), from Fri.

**THE BIG BANG (18):** Rude, animated version of World War Four, fought between an army of American-Soviet mutants and a swarm of large women. A French-Belgian production; directed by Fichet. Cannon, Fenton Street (01-930 0631); Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901), from Fri.

## SELECTED

**RADIO DAYS (PG):** Woody Allen's sweet, delicate tapestry of Brooklyn families, broadcasters and Manhattanites sharing hopes and dreams at the end of the 1930s. With Mia Farrow, Diane Wiest, Sam Green. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738).

**A GREAT WALL (PG):** Engaging look at clashing lifestyles with director Peter Wang as the Chinese-American computer executive visiting Peking with his family. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366); Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-836 6148).

## JAZZ

**WARREN VACHE:** His stylish trumpet reminiscent of Bratt and Beiderbecke, Vache teams up with the baritone saxophonist Joe Temperley. Tonight, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 8722).

**BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL:** Warren Vache joins Joe Temperley, Roy Williams, Dusko Goykovich, Martin Taylor, Gene Connors, Dave Green and Martin Drew for the main event of the festival's final evening, the M&B Jam Session. Tomorrow, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (021-454 7020).

**JEAN TOUSSAINT:** A recent graduate of Art Blakey's *finishing school*, this young West Indian tenor saxophonist appears with the Guildhall Big Band. Tomorrow, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (01-729 2476).

**JOE PASS:** Outstanding technique and supreme sensitivity from a master guitarist. Mon-Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

## DANCE

**LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET:** Performances of Nureyev's *Romeo and Juliet* this afternoon (with Nureyev as Mercutio) and evening. Maurice Béjart's *Bohème* and a new ballet by Kevin Hagan (to music by Benjamin Britten. (Mon, Tues). Susan Hogard, shares star billing (Thurs), when she plays Carmen, and Paul Chalmers makes his debut as Olegin (Fri). London Coliseum (01-836 3161).

**NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE:** For the Cheltenham Festival, four performances of *Coppelia* followed by three of a mixed bill including *Les Sylphides* and *Amedeo*. Amadio's *Suite Italienne* to Stravinsky's music. Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham (0242 523690). Tues to July 16, matinees Thurs and Sat.

**YOUNG ENTRY:** London Contemporary Dance School gives José Limón's *There Is A*

Time and works by student choreographers at The Place (01-387 0031) Mon-July 16. Royal Ballet School repeats its triple bill at Covent Garden (01-240 1066) Thurs. Bush Davies School has Doreen Wells, a former pupil, as guest star tomorrow afternoon; other performances at the Adelphi Theatre, East Grinstead (034287 532) are today, Tues and Wed.

## FILMS-ON-TV

**RIO BRAVO (1959):** John Wayne and friends defending a town against outlaws in a relaxed parody of *High Noon*. BBC1, today, 6.45-8.05pm.

**STAY HUNGRY (1976):** Funny, undervalued film by the talented Bob Fosse about a rich heir (Jeff Bridges) who decides to change his lifestyle. BBC2, tomorrow, 9.25-11.05pm.

**CAT PEOPLE (1943):** Classic horror piece from RKO with Simone Simon as a girl haunted by a bizarre pest. BBC2, Fri, 12.10-1.25am.



● Humphrey Bogart may be the most famous screen incarnation of Raymond Chandler's private eye, Philip Marlow, but Dick Powell (above) was arguably the best. He took the part in *Edward G. Robinson's 1944 film of *My Love* and created a performance of insolent style. The plot, about a search for a missing girl, is less important than atmosphere. BBC2, Tuesday, 9-10.35pm.*



Shown: an old favourite of the Proms, Sir Malcolm Sargent, and one of this year's conductors, Sir John Pritchard

**Strolling down the Proms**

What makes the Proms special? The youngsters, of course. That long, scruffy queue, perky even in the rigours of the British summer, which winds away from the Albert Hall and then transforms itself into the world's most attentive, enthusiastic audience — it is this that makes the seven-week-long festival unique. And the greater the musicians performing, the more they tend to respond to this huge, standing crowd.

Then there is what the BBC usually calls "the vast, unseen audience". The Prom season is really the only time when serious music-making receives an extended crack on BBC television. Of course, Radio 3 transmits all 66 concerts as well, but Radio 3 is largely for people who could not attend the concert, whereas television can get through to those who, until then, might never have dreamt of going.

One remembers the baritone Thomas Allen spectacularly fainting in *Carmine Burana* (what a critic), and a student leaping from the arena to carry the part on; or the continental-style cacophony of boos, whistles and cheers that greeted early Maxwell Davies premieres; or Haitink's almost manically angry

## TELEVISION

**SPACE:** James Michener's vast novel about the American space programme fashioned into a superior mini-series with James Garner, Susan Anspach and Michael York. ITV, Mon, 9-10pm and 10.30-11.30pm.

**THE RICHARD DIMBLEBY LECTURE:** An event which often stirs controversy. This year Sir Denis Forman, deputy chairman of Granada, talks on *British Television — Who Are the Masters Now?* BBC1, Wed, 10.10-11pm.

**LOVING MEMORY:** Four-part series by the poet, Tony Harrison, on how the dead are commemorated, from Blackpool to Naples. BBC2, Thurs, 9.30-10.10pm.

**THE HACKNEY WAY:** Omnibus profile of Dr Rod Hackney, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, prophet of inner-city renewal and adviser to the Prince of Wales. BBC1, Fri, 10.25-11.30pm.

## GALLERIES OPENINGS

**JOCK McFADYEN:** A touring show of paintings which examine, tragically, the secret passions and social manners of inner-city dwellers. Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton (0204 22311). Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30pm, Sat 10-5pm (closed Wed), free, until Aug 15. From today.

**LINDA SUTTON:** Recent works by an outstanding young painter and prizewinner at this year's Royal Academy summer show. Joneigh Gallery, Womersley, Guildford (0483-893177). Wed-Sat 11-12.30pm and 2-5pm, free, until Aug 1. From today.

**ALFRED WALLIS, CHRISTOPHER WOOD AND BEN NICHOLSON:** Important exhibition exploring the influence of Wallis, a St Ives fisherman, on his more artistically sophisticated friends. Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Dumbarton Road, Stirling (0786 17917).

## SELECTED

**MARK ROTHKO (1903-1970):** 100 paintings in a critically acclaimed show of abstract art by a major American painter. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313). Mon-Sat 10-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, £2.50, until Aug 31.

**PABLO PICASSO (1881-1973):** Thirty paintings, endlessly innovative and enjoyable, from the last half of the master's life. Waddington Galleries, 11 Cork Street, London W1 (01-437 8611). Mon-Fri, 10-5.30pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until July 18.

## OPERA

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Two operas in repertory: tonight, Tues and Fri at 6.30pm, *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi, cast including Robert Schumik, Ruth Falcon, Siegmund Nimsgern and Wynne Jones. Mon, Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm, return of Andrei Serban's *Fidelio*. Colin Davis conducts. Elizabeth Connell and Klaus König head the cast. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068).

**GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL OPERA:** Week of Strauss and Mozart: tonight, Mon, Wed and Thurs at 5.50pm, John Cox's production of *Cephiro*, conducted by Bernard Haitink. Cast including Anne Howells, Felicity Lott, Olaf Baer and Huguette Cuendet. Tomorrow at 4.10pm and Thurs at 5.10pm, Peter Hall's *Chorus in tutu* conducted by Lothar Zagrosek.

## ROCK

**BILLY JOEL:** The last of the British dates on the *Bridge* tour. Tonight, tomorrow, Wed and Thurs, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

**LOS LOBOS:** Tomorrow and Mon, Town & Country Club, London NWS (01-267 5334).



● Martin Simpson, a leading exponent of contemporary and traditional folk on the acoustic guitar, leads his new band, Flash Company, at the Bracknell Folk Festival, Berkshire. Simpson has a highly eclectic approach to the instrument, fusing the influences of the British, Celtic and North American cultures in a most distinctive way. South Hill Park, Bracknell (0344 484123). Tonight, 9pm.

## RADIO

**A SMALL COUNTRY LIVING:** Return of Jeanine Macmillan's award-winning series about people who make their living in rural Britain, from stock breeding to country crafts. Radio 4, tomorrow, 2-2.30pm.

**THE SOMEBODY:** Joseph Marcell plays a Nelson Mandela figure, returning to a changed world after 30 years in prison, in the last play by the South African writer Bloke Modisane. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm.

**FILM STAR:** James Cagney, incomparable screen tough guy and song and dance man, is profiled by Alexander Walker. Radio 4, Wed, 12.25-12.55pm.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**MARKING TIME:** Contemporary photography in London by students and public showing aspects of everyday life lifted from being merely routine by an historical travel through the museum's archives. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01 600 3699).

## BOOKINGS

## FIRST CHANCE

**MARBLE HILL RIVERSIDE CONCERTS:** Bookings for Riverside Jazz (July 19) London Mozart Players (July 26) and London Bach Orchestra concert with

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

## SATURDAY

**BBC1 WALES:** 12.15-1.15pm: *News*. 1.15-2.15pm: *News*. 2.15-3.15pm: *News*. 3.15-4.15pm: *News*. 4.15-5.15pm: *News*. 5.15-6.15pm: *News*. 6.15-7.15pm: *News*. 7.15-8.15pm: *News*. 8.15-9.15pm: *News*. 9.15-10.15pm: *News*. 10.15-11.15pm: *News*. 11.15-12.15pm: *News*.

**ANGLIA:** As London except 1.00pm-1.30pm: *News*. 1.30-2.30pm: *News*. 2.30-3.30pm: *News*. 3.30-4.30pm: *News*. 4.30-5.30pm: *News*. 5.30-6.30pm: *News*. 6.30-7.30pm: *News*. 7.30-8.30pm: *News*. 8.30-9.30pm: *News*. 9.30-10.30pm: *News*. 10.30-11.30pm: *News*. 11.30-12.30pm: *News*.

**BORDER:** As London except 1.00pm-1.30pm: *News*. 1.30-2.30pm: *News*. 2.30-3.30pm: *News*. 3.30-4.30pm: *News*. 4.30-5.30pm: *News*. 5.30-6.30pm: *News*. 6.30-7.30pm: *News*. 7.30-8.30pm: *News*. 8.30-9.30pm: *News*. 9.30-10.30pm: *News*. 10.30-11.30pm: *News*. 11.30-12.30pm: *News*.

**CENTRAL:** As London except 1.00pm-1.30pm: *News*. 1.30-2.30pm: *News*. 2.30-3.30pm: *News*. 3.30-4.30pm: *News*. 4.30-5.30pm: *News*. 5.30-6.30pm: *News*. 6.30-7.30pm: *News*. 7.30-8.30pm: *News*. 8.30-9.30pm: *News*. 9.30-10.30pm: *News*. 10.30-11.30pm: *News*. 11.30-12.30pm: *News*.

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## SATURDAY

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

## SUNDAY



## THEATRE

**PAINFUL STEPS:** Imelda Staunton plays one of the young mothers who enters the Los Angeles marathon dance contest in *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* Filmed in 1969, with Staunton as Jane Fonda, it is a story of a woman who is a victim of the RSC's American season. The director is Ron Daniels. (Mentor 12.30-1.00pm, 1.30-2.00pm, 2.30-3.00pm, 3.30-4.00pm, 4.30-5.00pm, 5.30-6.00pm, 6.30-7.00pm, 7.30-8.00pm, 8.30-9.00pm, 9.30-10.00pm, 10.30-11.00pm, 11.30-12.00am)

**LAST CHANGE:** A play by Caryl Churchill, about a woman who is a victim of the RSC's American season. The director is Ron Daniels. (Mentor 12.30-1.00pm, 1.30-2.00pm, 2.30-3.00pm, 3.30-4.00pm, 4.30-5.00pm, 5.30-6.00pm, 6.30-7.00pm, 7.30-8.00pm, 8.30-9.00pm, 9.30-10.00pm, 10.30-11.00pm, 11.30-12.00am)

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## CHOICE

and audience. The show takes the form of the variety bill, hosted by the rubber-limbed Michael Barrymore, and the fare is traditional - comics in Bacofoil suits, an 'Isn't it expensive in Bournemouth?' routine, and an impression of Ronald Reagan. Michael Barrymore's solo, in which he cheerfully insults the audience, gets nearest to subverting the conventions but the closing chorus of Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again* could have come from any seaside show over the past 40 years.

Peter Waymark



Michael Barrymore: the comedian is top of the bill in tonight's Summertime Special (on ITV, 8.15pm)



Hemingway, among familiar things: the writer's four-part life story begins on BBC1 at 9.25pm

## CHOICE

● Bidding to be the longest television biography of the year, *Hemingway* (BBC1, 9.25pm) runs for four one-hour instalments. On the evidence of episode one, it will stay the course. The director, Anna Benson Gyles, takes her theme from the public myth of Hemingway as the macho hellraiser and proceeds gently to undermine it. The first programme, which goes up to the end of the First World War and Hemingway's impending departure for Paris, leans on three main props. The first is gorgeous, sun-drenched photography of the Michigan lakeside home where Hemingway

way spent his youthful summers. The second is a lengthy interview with Hemingway's sister, Madeline, a cheery, bubbly woman with impressive powers of recall. The third is the alter ego, Nick Adams, who in the Hemingway stories embodies much of the writer's early biography. What emerges is the growing tension between Hemingway and his dominant mother; the apparent contradiction between the idyllic pastoralism of the family background and a preoccupation (even in boyhood) with death and suicide; and the shattering effect of the terrible wounds he received in the First World War.

P.W.

## BBC1

6.45 Open University. Until 6.50 The Family News. (r)

6.55 Play School 9.15

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## BBC2

6.50 Open University. Until 1.55

2.00 Film: A Farwell to Arms (b/w) (1930) starring Gary Cooper and Helen Hayes. First World War drama. (r)

2.30 The World of Peter Rabbit (b/w) (1930) starring Gary Cooper and Helen Hayes. First World War drama. (r)

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# Judge's key ruling gives go-ahead for sterilization

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Doctors were given the go-ahead by a High Court judge yesterday to carry out an abortion and sterilization in the "tragic" case of a 19-year-old girl with a mental age of less than three years.

The landmark ruling, the first where the courts have sanctioned a sterilization on an adult who cannot consent for herself, is certain to lead to changes in the law.

The recent sterilization of a mentally handicapped girl, "Janette," was approved by the House of Lords when she was still 17 and a ward of court because of doubts about the courts' powers to act once she was 18.

Giving his reasons in open court yesterday — the first time a judge has done this in such a case — Mr Justice Wood accepted that no one even the courts, at present had power to consent on behalf of the young woman in this case to a sterilization.

But he said he was "convinced, as are all the lawyers and professional persons involved" that it was in the "best interests" of the girl that the abortion and sterilization should be carried through.

In such an exceptional case, he said, where no one could consent for the patient and where the patient could never consent for herself, "a medical adviser is justified in taking such steps as good medical practice demands."

The judge also called for immediate action to enable the court to deal with such cases, now coming up at a rate of one a month.

Doctors were seeking court orders to approve their actions in the absence of a clear state of the law, the judge said.

There should be "speedy restitution" of the Crown's prerogative powers to act as *parens patriae* on behalf of those who cannot give consent themselves, he said.

Yesterday, the Official Solicitor, Mr David Venable, who represented the girl's interests, said he would not be

appealing against the judge's approval for the operation because this was so clearly a case in which this was justified in the best interests of the girl.

He added that the ruling would increase pressure for a clarification of the law which was now needed if there was not to be a stream of such applications before the courts now that it was known judges were prepared to sanction such operations.

The ruling was sought by the girl's mother and the area health authority on behalf of the doctors, who were unwilling to operate unless protected by a declaration of the court that such operations would not be illegal.

Apart from the case of "Janette," there have recently been two other cases where doctors have sought approval for abortions from mentally handicapped adults.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Wood, describing the case as "tragic," said that looking after the girl was a full-time occupation for her mother, who was divorced. The girl's powers of communication were extremely limited and she demanded "constant supervision and stimulation."

She was doubly incontinent, the judge added, and needed changing six to eight times a day. She also suffered "quite badly" from "grand-mal" fits and since the death of her grandmother in 1980, had become "generally unco-operative and destructive."

Her mother was convinced she had no maternal instincts and would be "totally incapable of understanding the birth of the baby or of caring for that child."

Although under constant supervision, the girl had become pregnant.

● **Mencap inquiry:** A spokesman for Mencap yesterday said that as calls for a Government inquiry into the ethical and legal problems in these cases had met with no response it was setting up its own committee of inquiry.

Law Report, page 36

## Rolls-Royce deal

Continued from page 1

rise to the full £650 million if Qantas, as expected, exercises its option to buy a further 15 of the new jumbos. First deliveries are scheduled for March 1989.

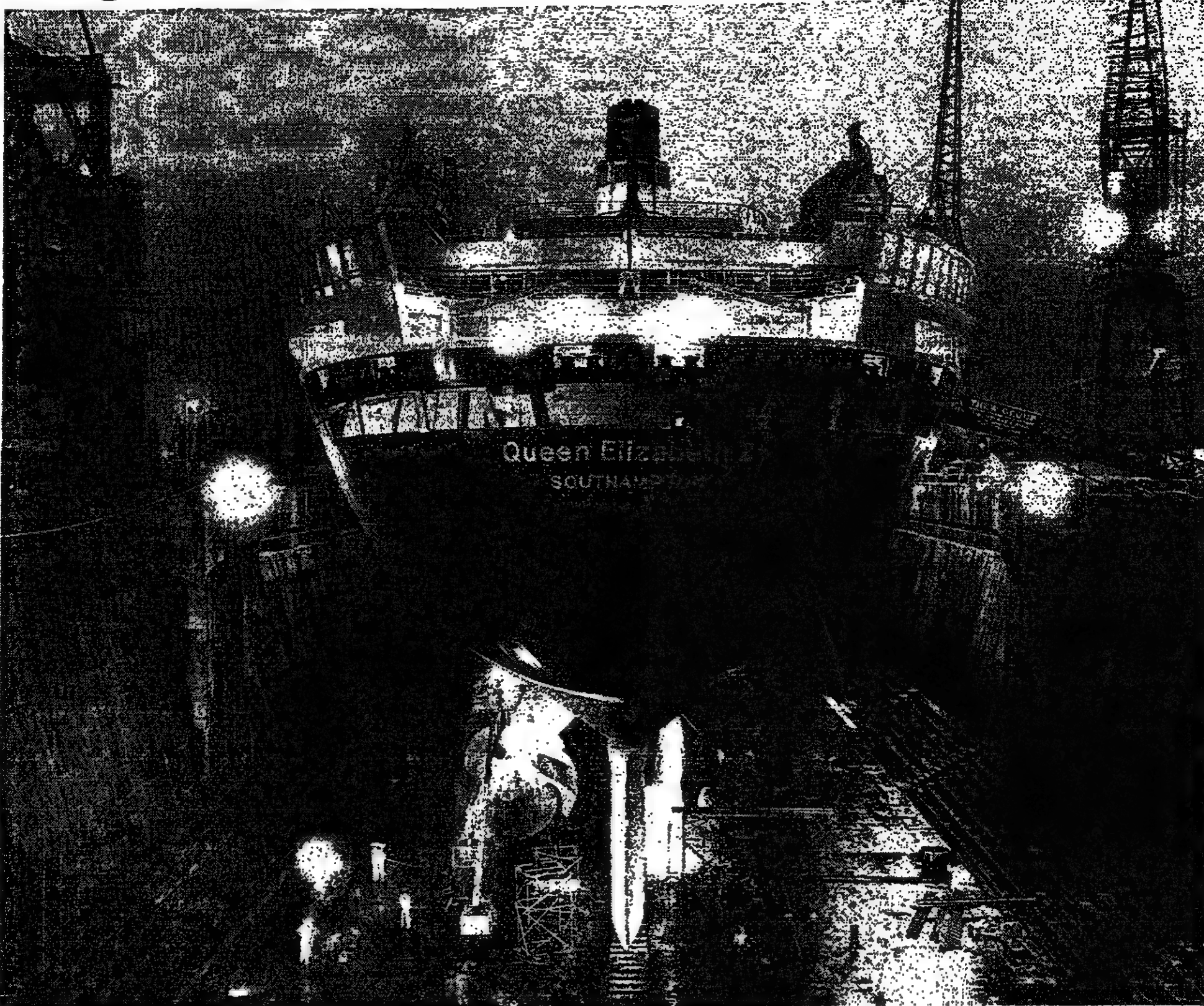
Mr Robins said competition for the order had been "very tough". Choice of the RB-211 would not only provide Qantas with significant savings over competitor engines, but would allow the 747-400 to consolidate one-stop operations to Europe and non-stop operation to the West Coast of the US.

Further development of the engine is planned, with a -700

version being evaluated. This engine would be aimed at the high gross weight twin-engine and airlines and tri-jets and, according to Rolls-Royce, outperform all other engines now foreseen. The RB-211-700 could be offered for use on BA's next fleet of long-haul twin engine jets for which the choice is the Airbus A330, the MD-11 of McDonnell Douglas, or Boeing's extended range 767.

The 524D4D was launched on the 747-400 in June, last year, and has been selected by Cathay Pacific and British Airways. The latter placed the biggest firm order for 16 aircraft and £600 million of engines and spares.

# Night of emergency repairs for the QE2



3.30 am and engineers in the King George V dry dock carry out emergency work on the QE2's propellers (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

By Alan Hamilton

A frantic through-the-night engineering operation had the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth II back in the water and on her way to New York last night after emergency repairs to her propellers in a Southampton dry dock.

The 67,000-ton liner entered the King George V dry dock, the only one in Britain large enough to accommodate her, at 7 pm on Thursday night after a hurried return from New York. By 3.30 on Friday morning the dock had been pumped dry and staff from Thew Engineering, the company which has operated the dock since its former owners, Vosper Ship Repairs, went into receivership in February, set to work.

By 5.30 yesterday afternoon the work was finished, and the dock was flooded ready for the QE2's departure for New York soon after 8.30 pm. The liner's scheduled call at Cherbourg was abandoned, with passengers due to embark there being flown to Southampton. Cunard said last night that the ship would arrive in New York as planned on Wednesday.

Southampton passengers, more accustomed to boarding at the port's Ocean Terminal, were embarked yesterday afternoon while their ship was still in dock with no water beneath their keel.

Trouble arose soon after the QE2's major £110 million refit last April in the Lloyd Reef yard at Bremerhaven, West Germany, when sets of Dutch-manufactured experimental vanes were fitted to the ship's propellers. The vanes were intended to act like a car's fifth gear and produce fuel savings estimated at £1,000 a day.

Unfortunately they sheared off on the vessel's post-refit maiden voyage, leaving a series of metal stumps behind the main screws.

In the early hours of yesterday morning Thew en-

gineers cut off the remaining stumps, welded metal caps in their place, and inserted observation portholes in the ship's hull so that the behaviour of the propellers could be watched.

A Cunard spokesman said: "We will examine what is left of the vanes to see what went wrong. We can then go back to the manufacturers and possibly talk about redesigning them."

Vane troubles are only one of a series of misfortunes that have beset Cunard's flagship since its refit. The first voyage from Southampton to New York ended with passengers complaining of flooded cabins, faulty air conditioning and other problems, with the result that they were offered a 40 per cent refund on their tickets.

On a subsequent voyage 200 passengers were asked to change their bookings because of refitting work on their cabins.

## Doctors insurance to rise after £1m award

Continued from page 1

When the correct treatment was given, it was too late.

The mental age of the student, who was an accomplished sportsman with 12 O Levels and four A Levels and was planning to study bio-chemical engineering, shrunk to that of someone aged two "without the young child's promise for the future", the judge said.

"He cannot speak, apart from the occasional utterance of a monosyllable. His eyesight is drastically impaired."

Samir's father, Mr Kassem Abou-Hosn, a businessman aged 53, and his wife, Mrs Hind Abou-Hosn, have spent the past five years "bullying" their son into doing exercises at their home in Hove, Sussex.

When stimulated, Samir, once the most gifted of four intelligent brothers, could respond to simple instructions.

He also displayed fits of temper and frustration. While he could walk unaided in a "zombie-like fashion" and drink from a glass and feed himself, "even these very simple tasks require a Herculean effort of will on his part".

His best hope for the future is to learn to do these simple tasks a little better.

After the case, Mr Abou-Hosn said: "I am happy with the result. I hope we can do more for Samir with the money."

But Dr Wall of the MDU said: "The percentage of UK doctors who are sued has increased sharply in the past three years, not because the medical profession is making more mistakes but because the public has increased expectations of desired results from surgical and medical treatment and is much more willing to sue when disappointed."

## Missing man found in cottage

By Andrew Morgan

A British Gas manager was last night found starving and dehydrated in an isolated Cornwall cottage five days after disappearing from the caravan site where he was staying with his family.

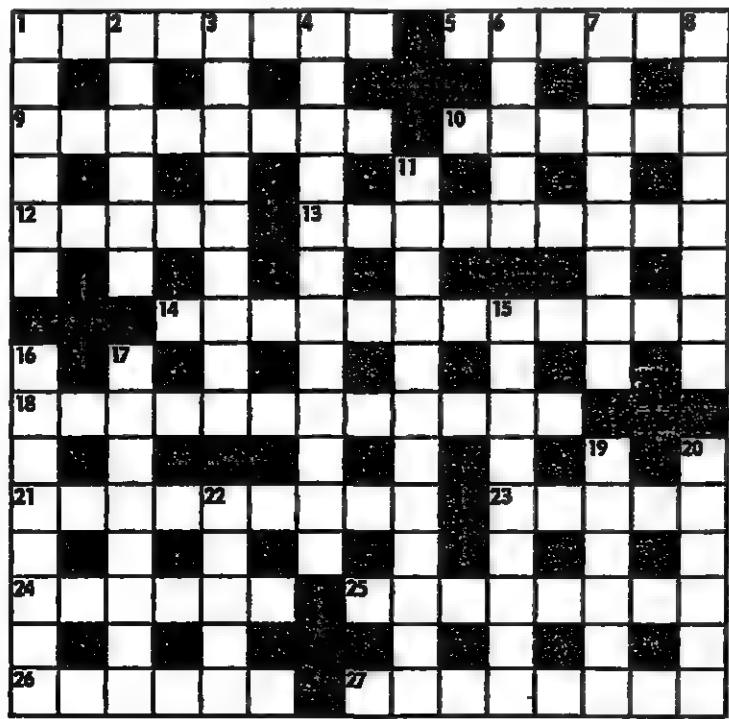
The owner of the cottage found Mr Robert Kennedy naked on her bed at her home near Trenarwen when she returned from holiday. He had had nothing to eat or drink since his disappearance and was emaciated and had head injuries.

Mr Kennedy, aged 43, was taken to the Royal Cornwall Hospital, near Truro.

A police spokesman said: "It is a complete mystery as to how Mr Kennedy finished up in the house or why he didn't try to move out of it."

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,406

- ACROSS**
- Only partial, say, this flaw in the deal (4-4)
  - Smoke about fifty aboard this vessel? (6)
  - Leaders of state in Asia more recently so called (8)
  - Choice cut, it's said, for those eating out (6)
  - Behold a spy? That's standard (5)
  - Pedlar seen near it, confused about money (9)
  - 23? He badly wants at first to be a doctor (4-8)
  - Carrier for the consumer in the pudding club (7-5)
  - Unacceptable strictness reported on this boat (9)
  - An upright type, Marcus Aurelius (5)
  - Flyer is rejected in Paris, twice (6)
  - No one lies, presumably, in such a committee (8)
  - Grumble for a year about girl's return (6)
  - Head organized payment for a supporter (8)
- DOWN**
- Young creature has a certain appeal in Kent, perhaps (6)
  - The shade of old mountains? (6)
  - Measure adopted by ambassador to penetrate the plant (9)
  - Break in flight to produce a platform for disembarking (7-5)
  - See 19's emotion rising in the Cevennes? (5)
  - Mend gear designed for a policeman (8)
  - One bed in nine required for its victims? (8)
  - Drunk on gin, perhaps, boy becomes lively (4-8)
  - River that's inhabited by wild dragon? (3-6)
  - With skill, a daughter got half a pudding out of it (8)
  - Mother is getting mixed up on the map (8)
  - Universal anger about member being a judge (6)
  - Man on board, once a champion in war (6)
  - An outlet for children (5)



Solution to Puzzle No 17,405



Solution to Puzzle No 17,406

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A Foakes, 133 Mendip Road, Yatton, Bristol; K S Andrews, 45 King Edward Ave., Broadstairs; A Todd, 5 Venice Close, Stamford, Lincs; M G Redfern, 19 Fletcher Drive, Disley, Stockport; R N Shragar, 35 York Terrace East, Regent's Park, London.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### WEATHER

General Situation: Southern districts will have a mostly cloudy morning with some sunshine later. Northern England will have light rain at first then sunny periods. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers. Temperatures will be near normal in Scotland and north-west England but warm elsewhere. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Continuing unsettled with rain or showers in the north, dry and warm in the south.

#### ABROAD

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, fog; n, rain; s, sun; t, thunder; w, wind.

	C	F		C	F
Alexandria	28	82	Madrid	31	88
Amman	31	88	Manila	31	88
Algiers	27	81	Moscow	27	81
Algeria	27	81	Nairobi	31	88
Amman	31	88	Rangoon	31	88
Antwerp	26	79	Reykjavik	31	88
Athens	26	79	Rome	31	88
Bahia	30	86	Sao Paulo	31	88
Batavia	31	88	Seoul	31	88
Bombay	31	88	Singapore	31	88
Buenos Aires	31	88	Sydney	31	88
Calcutta	31	88	Taipei	31	88
Canton	31	88	Tokyo	31	88
Cebu	31	88	Valencia	31	88
Colon	31	88	Vienna	31	88
Hankow	31	88	Warsaw	31	88
Hong Kong	31	88	Zurich	31	88
Kobe	31	88			
London	31	88			
Lyons	31	88			
Manila	31	88			
Medan	31	88			
Shanghai	31	88			
Singapore	31	88			
Sourabaya	31	88			
Tientsin	31	88			
Yokohama	31	88			

#### AROUND BRITAIN

These are Thursday's figures

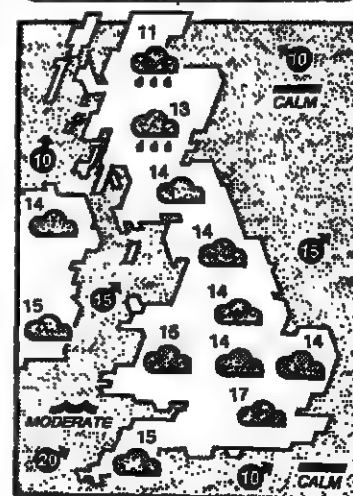
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs
Birmingham	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Bristol	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Cardiff	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Edinburgh	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Glasgow	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
London	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Manchester	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Newcastle	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Nottingham	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Sheffield	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Sunderland	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Swansea	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Torquay	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Wrexham	12.7	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0

#### HIGH TIDES

These are Thursday's figures

	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
London Bridge	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Aberdeen	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Amman	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Antwerp	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Bahia	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Batavia	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Bombay	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Buenos Aires	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Calcutta	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Canton	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Cebu	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Colon	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Hankow	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Hong Kong	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Kobe	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
London	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Lyons	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Manila	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Medan	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Shanghai	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Singapore	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Sourabaya	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Tientsin	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70
Yokohama	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70	2.21	6.70

### AM



### POLLEN COUNT

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10 am yesterday was 83 (high).

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY: London 9.46 pm to 4.27 am

Bristol 9.55 pm to 4.37 am

Edinburgh 10.24 pm to 4.14 am

Manchester 10.05 pm to 4.24 am

Pennance 10.00 pm to 4.56 am

TOMORROW: London 9.46 pm to 4.28 am

Bristol 9.54 pm to 4.38 am

Edinburgh 10.23 pm to 4.14 am

Manchester 10.04 pm to 4.26 am

Pennance 10.00 pm to 4.56 am

TODAY: Sun rise: 4.56 am

Moon set: 9.16 pm

Full Moon 4.33 am

TOMORROW: Sun rise: 4.57 am

Moon set: 9.15 pm

Full Moon 4.33 am

NOON TODAY

High: 1016

Low: 1008

High: 1016

Low: 1008

High: 1016

Low: 1008

High: 1016

Low: 1008

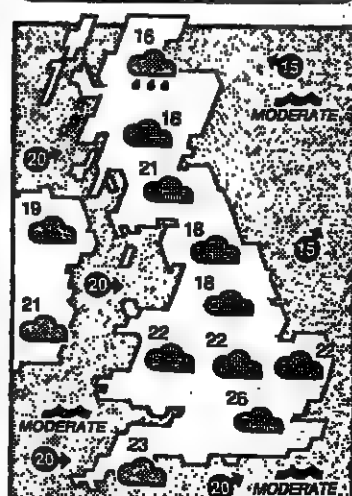
High: 1016

Low: 1008

High: 1016

Low: 1008

### PM



### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 27C (81F)

min 6 pm to 6 am, 17C (63F) Humidity: 6 pm,

50 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 16.5mm. Sea level, 6 pm,

1115.1 millibars, falling

1,000 millibars = 29.92 in.

### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f,

fair; r, rain; s, sun.

C F C F

Belfast 19 86 Guernsey 22 72

Birmingham 21 70 Inverness 13 56

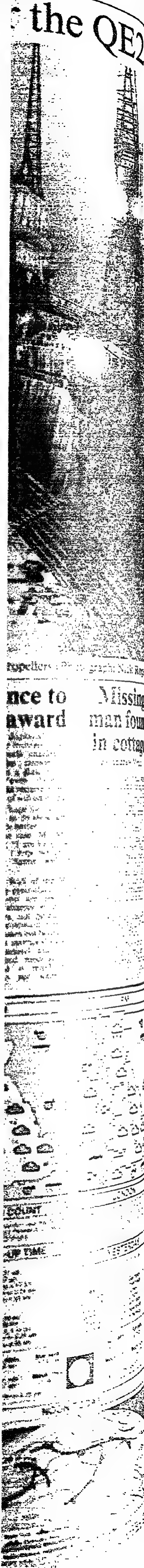
Blackpool 21 70 Jersey 13 56

Bristol 21 70 London 23 73

Cardiff 19 66 Manchester 21 70

Edinburgh 15 59 Newcastle 17 63





Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1868.8 (+22.7)  
FT-SE 100  
2382.0 (+11.0)  
Bargains  
64970 (52475)  
USM (Datastream)  
208.76 (+1.62)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6140 (-0.0040)  
W German mark  
2.9786 (+0.0039)  
Trade-weighted  
72.9 (-0.1)

Dixons in £19m US expansion

The Dixons electrical group is expanding in the United States, paying £19 million for the chain of 24 Tipton Centers, which sell a variety of electrical goods in the mid-West.

Tipton has grown fast in recent years and made pretax profits of £2.6 million last year on sales of £52 million. Mr Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman, said the deal was part of his strategy to expand in this sector. He recently took over the £20-million chain of Sile stores which sell fridges and televisions.

Profit up 36%

Robert Fleming Holdings, investment managers and investment bankers, reported a jump in profit of 36 per cent to £30 million for the year to March 31. *Tempos, page 25*

USM debut

Three companies will be making markets in the shares of Economic Forestry Group, a forestry and horticultural company, when dealings start in the USM on Monday - Cazenove, Smith Brothers and County NatWest. *Tempos, page 25*

Offer lapses

Apricot's offer for Wordplex has lapsed after holders of only 12.67 per cent of Wordplex shares accepted. Apricot decided not to raise its 139.1p-a-share offer above the rival Norsk Data bid of 155p cash.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2447.70 (+3.51)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	2410.98 (+347.08)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2207.21 (+18.78)
Amsterdam	Gen	511.2 (-0.4)
Sydney	AO	1918.2 (+18.6)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1883.4 (+4.8)
Brussels	General	5084.2 (-16.5)
Paris	CAC	547.90 (+2.50)
Zurich	SKA Gen	547.90 (+2.50)
London	FT. A	1208.18 (+7.12)
FT. B		90.58 (-0.34)
Recent issues		
Closing prices		

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Glaxo	310p (+40p)
Marine Drv	688p (+62p)
West Yorks Hosp	173p (+40p)
ASDA-MFI	225p (+25p)
Lucas	785p (+22p)
Grand Met	604p (+24p)
Abbey	435p (+30p)
Countrywide Props	180p (+20p)
Victor Products	448p (+25p)
Wagon Industrial	448p (+25p)
Domino Printing	588p (+28p)
Britannia Secs	247p (+31p)
LEP Group	255p (+28p)
Morson Docks	240p (+33p)
Clark Comm	793p (+40p)
Kleinwort Benson	625p (+31p)
AC Holdings	1080p (+82p)
Morgan Grantell	448p (+25p)

FALLS:

Thorn EMI	788p (-10p)
Sandell	287p (-5p)
Prices are as at 4pm	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	9 1/8% - 9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/2% - 8 3/4% buying rate
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	5 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.64-5.62%
30-year bonds	102 1/2% - 102 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6140	£ DM1.8455
£ Sfr2.4884	£ Sfr1.5405
£ FF9.9180	£ FF6.1485
£ Yen243.31	£ Yen150.85
£ Index72.9	£ Index103.9
ECU 20.886767	SDR 16.785725

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$444.25 pm \$444.75	
close \$446.25-446.75 (\$276.50-277.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$445.50-446.00	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.) pm \$19.85 (\$19.60)	
* Domestic latest trading price	

Stock Market 25	Comment 25
Wall Street 25	Tempos 25
Moscow Markets 24	Unit Trusts 26
Foreign Exch 24	Commodities 26
Traded Opp 24	USM Prices 26
Alpha Stocks 24	Share Prices 27

Triple disposal expected to raise £800m for expansion

Asda to sell MFI chain

By Alexandra Jackson

A move which was greeted only two years ago as the retailing deal for the 1990s has failed. Asda-MFI announced yesterday that it is putting its MFI furniture chain and Allied Carpets up for sale. It is already in discussions about the sale of the dairy division of Associated Fresh Foods.

Mr Derek Hunt, chief executive of Asda-MFI, who was instrumental in building up the MFI chain, wishes to stay with MFI. He will, therefore, give up his group position.

He said: "I reached the decision to sell MFI in my role as group chief executive on the basis of what was best for Asda-MFI. It was a very difficult decision to make but now I see my role to keep morale high at MFI and get the business back on the tracks."

Mr John Hardman, managing director of Asda Stores, is to become group managing director.

Asda-MFI hopes to make a significant contribution to its three-year £1 billion superstore expansion programme by the sales. City commentators believe that the proceeds from the sale of all three businesses will be about £800 million.

Speculation was rife in the City yesterday about potential purchasers for MFI and/or Allied. Names such as Ladbroke, Ward White, Woolworth, Magnet & Southern, Granada, BAT Group and Sears were the most frequently on brokers' lips.

However Ladbroke issued a statement saying that it needed to further information about the MFI business but that, looking at MFI's static performance, it was an unlikely purchaser. Some interpreted this as a red herring to keep the price down.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, is collecting bids. Mr David Donne, chairman of Asda-MFI, said that approaches had been made for MFI and Allied but that no negotiations had been entered into. Nor did he rule out a management buyout. "Our intention is to do what is best for our shareholders as well as what is good for MFI employees and suppliers," he said.

MFI was acquired in an agreed £563 million bid in April 1985. Since then about £75 million has been spent on

expanding and improving the business. Mr Donne, said he hoped to sell MFI for at least as much as was paid for it. He said the business had been much improved in the last two years and was broadening its product range.

Allied Carpets, with 100 out of town stores and a 10 per cent market share, also deserved a premium price, he said.

However, MFI has been virtually untouched by the present boom in consumer retailing. This, and increased competition from other fur-

niture and do-it-yourself oriented chains, has led to a decline in profitability.

Asda-MFI figures reported yesterday for the year to the beginning of May showed a negligible increase in operating profits from MFI. They moved from £46.3 million to £46.5 million on turnover 9 per cent higher at £420.5 million.

Pretax profits for the group as a whole, however, increased by 15 per cent to £192 million on turnover up from £2.5 billion to £2.7 billion.

Fully diluted earnings per share rose from 10.1p to 11.2p. An 11 per cent dividend increase to 3.5p is recommended.

Asda Stores opened eight new outlets in 1986-87 and plans to open nine and 14 in 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively. This compares with an increase of 11 in the three years to the end of April 1986.

The group, which has 9 per cent of the British food retailing market, operated from 111 Asda stores at the end of its last financial year. Of these, 35 are in the South of the country. The group has already identified 20 sites in the South which it wishes to develop and is on the look out for at least 30 more. Of the £1 billion earmarked for expansion over the next three years, £300 million will be split between a new distribution network and refurbishment of existing Asda stores.



John Hardman: taking over as group managing director

Inflation rate edges up to 4.2% in June

By Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

The annual rate of inflation rose slightly last month from 4.1 per cent to 4.2 per cent. But the Government still expects the rate to peak below 4.5 per cent this summer and finish the year below 4 per cent.

Last month the Index of Retail Prices was unchanged at 101.9 (January 13 1987=100). Seasonal food prices fell, though by slightly less than last year, and mortgage rate cuts by the smaller building societies brought down housing costs. But prices of motor vehicles rose 1.1 per cent.

Despite the standstill on prices the year-on-year rate of inflation went up because the index fell in June last year by 0.1 per cent. This month could see a further small increase over the year because in July last year the index fell by 0.3 per cent.

The Government nevertheless remains confident that the underlying trend in prices is under control. Excluding cuts in the mortgage rate, which affected last year more than this year, inflation fell last month from 3.9 per cent to 3.5 per cent. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said the figures were "fully consistent" with the Chancellor's forecast of an inflation rate of under 4 per cent by the end of the year.

The figures were slightly better than expected in the City, which had anticipated some increase in prices last month. The pound recovered in foreign exchange markets after the figures, following a nervous start. By the close it

Index of Retail Prices

	Index Jan 13 '87=100	change 1 month	% change 12 mths
Feb	100.4	+0.4	+3.9
Mar	100.6	+0.2	+4.0
Apr	101.8	+1.2	+4.2
May	101.9	+0.1	+4.1
Jun	101.9	0.0	+4.2

was \$1.6140 compared with an opening rate of \$1.6110 and the previous close of \$1.6180. The effective exchange rate index finished at 72.9, down 0.1.

Mr Stephen Hannah of County NatWest said: "The figures were better than I expected. But it does not alter my view of the underlying position. If you take out all the exceptional factors the core rate is about 3 1/2 per cent."

This month's figures will benefit from the first of the price reductions being introduced by British Gas. In total these will take 0.1 per cent off the index.

The Government is confident that the recent strength of sterling will help bring inflation down as lower import prices work through to the high street. The inflation profile this year looks like being the opposite of last year when there was a mid-year dip.

The Tax and Price Index, which indicates the size of pay increases needed to keep level pegging in real terms, was 2.5 per cent higher than a year earlier, compared with 2.4 per cent in May. At 99.8 (January 1987=100) there was no change in the index last month. The rate of increase is slower than for the RPI because of the tax cuts in the Budget.

SEC investigates 'possible \$12bn securities fraud'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has launched an investigation of possible securities fraud involving an estimated \$12 billion (£7.4 billion) in issues traded on the nation's municipal bond market, according to industry sources.

SEC officials, citing an agency rule that it does not comment on investigations, refused yesterday to confirm or deny the probe, which would be the largest ever undertaken of the tax-free bond industry. The bonds are issued by US towns and cities to raise money for local projects such as sewage, water and public housing projects.

Industry officials said the SEC had evidence that in some cases money raised by the issues was never used for the actual projects. Instead, big profits were generated for

the firms which actually devised the deals.

A Missouri real estate developer alerted the SEC to possible fraud last January when he said that \$20 million in proceeds from a bond issue intended for apartment construction in St Louis had been misused. Later, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* raised strong questions about the validity of a \$335 million bond issue which was meant to finance a new rubbish removal plant in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Congressional officials said yesterday that as many as 90 issues underwritten by 10 Wall Street investment banking houses may be involved in the probe, which could lead to demands for tighter regulation of the market. Currently, municipalities are not required to register with the SEC before issuing bonds.

Industry officials said the SEC probe appeared to be focused on a controversial technique known as "escrow financing" which allowed proceeds of tax-exempt issues to be invested in other forms of securities at rates higher than the bonds paid.

Mr Christopher Taylor, executive director of the Municipal Securities Rule-making Board, said that in some cases there appeared to be no connection between the financing and the underlying project.

There were indications that the proceeds of some issues were channelled into investment projects instead of being made available to developers for construction projects. In others, bonds were issued despite the fact that there was little likelihood of the project going forward.

BA backs computer network

By Our City Staff

British Airways, in partnership with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Swissair and United Airlines of the US, is ploughing \$120 million (£74 million) into a new IBM-based computer information and reservation system for the travel industry.

Unlike many computer systems now used by travel agents, which are owned by airlines and therefore give preference to certain routes and services, the new system will present a neutral menu of air routes, carriers and prices.

Its integrated database will also offer travellers facilities for booking trains and hotel rooms or for hiring cars anywhere in the world. Travel agents linked to the scheme will have access to accounting systems and marketing information.

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, said yesterday: "The new system heralds the most important development in airline information and reservations system software that Europe will see this century."

"The 1990s will bring increased competition among airlines and travel agents and a growing sophistication among the travelling public. It will need great innovation to develop the systems to meet these demands."

The first link-ups to the new network will come early next year. But its backers, who are pooling their existing distribution and software and communications technology, reckon that at least 75 million European travel arrangements will be made each year through the system by 1990.

The new system will be linked to United Airlines' Apollo reservation system in Denver, Colorado.

Oil price nears \$20 a barrel

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

North Sea oil prices have moved closer to the \$20-a-barrel mark only two weeks after the decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to limit output for the second half of this year in an attempt to move prices upwards.

Cargoes of Brent North Sea crude changed hands yesterday at \$19.80 a barrel and in the US the West Texas Intermediate crude was being priced at more than \$21 a barrel in some deals.

A combination of fears over renewed military activity in the Arab Gulf restricting supplies and news that both China and Norway have agreed to co-operate with Opec in trimming output to

bring it closer to demand levels have boosted the price.

Traders are also taking into account possible tightness of supplies from the North Sea during August when several fields are due to shut down for maintenance, including a scheduled 25-day closure of the large Ekofisk field in the Norwegian sector.

Following visits over the past three days from Opec ministers, China and Norway have agreed to co-operate in cutting exports.

The Norwegian Government has renewed its commitment to slow down the pace of new developments to help Opec bring supply and demand back into balance.

China, although it has not committed itself to putting a figure on production cuts, has said that it will co-operate.

The Venezuelan oil minister, Dr Hernandez Grisanti, who represented Opec during discussions with the Chinese Vice-Premier, Mr Li Peng, said yesterday that he had not asked China to put a figure on the size of export cuts it would make.

He said: "They will watch closely the volume of the market. They are not going to negatively affect the market price."

"I believe that what is important is the political declaration of China to support the efforts of Opec."

Advertisement for Unit Trust Management Service featuring interest rates (9%, 8%, 8.2%) and the text: "With £10,000 a more profitable investment can be just as simple."

BT 'determined its customers will come first'

Answering the critics' call

By Joe Joseph

Peering nervously over the battlements, British Telecom is struggling to dodge the slings and arrows of outraged customers that have been whizzing past its head it during the past two weeks.

Emerging from one of the most sustained barrages of criticism since it was put into private hands in 1984, BT last night proclaimed: "We will show by example that we can - and will - give our customers the best."

"Of course we accept that we have to make improvements quickly and effectively. But our critics ignore just how much we've already done."

The official publication of a widely leaked MORI opinion poll carried out for the National Consumer Council, showing that BT's standing is not quite what it was in those heady days three years ago when its stock market flotation gave overnight joy to millions of its share-buying customers.

The poll indicated growing dissatisfaction with BT's prices and standards of service. More than half its consumers find BT's prices unacceptable. Almost one-fifth grumbled about BT's handling of queries.

But Mr Bett reckons this all falls some way short of a detailed critique of BT's performance.

Mr Bett, who says he has hundreds of unsolicited letters from satisfied customers scattered about his office, is hurt that the report fails to point out BT's many achievements, such as shorter queues for new telephones, a £5 billion

investment in new exchanges and the £100 million spent on computerizing the once capricious directory inquiries services.

"And let's not forget that while all this is happening the cost to customers of our network service has been coming down in real terms."

The report would have been bad enough had it not come hard on the heels of some damaging testimony from Ofel, the telecommunications industry watchdog. On Monday Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of Ofel, chided BT in front of a parliamentary committee for dragging its feet in resuming publication of its own statistics on the quality of service to customers.

But let BT have the last word. "We know and acknowledge that we have a lot to do and a long way to go. We are determined that the customer should and will come first."

Advertisement for Unit Trust Management Service with contact information: "To: Montagu Loeb Stanley, 31 Sun Street, London EC2M 2DP. Please send me further details of the Unit Trust Management Service."



## STOCK MARKET

## Equities march on to fresh records

By Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

Dealers celebrated the end of a record-breaking account in style yesterday with share prices surging to their highest levels ever.

About £4 billion was added to the value of quoted companies with the FT 30 share index closing 22.7 points higher at a new all-time high of 1,868.8. This is a rise on the account of 78.1 points (4.4 per cent). The broader FT-SE 100 share index also ended the two-week account on a high note with a rise of 11.0 points to a record 2,382.0. It has now risen by 703 points, or 41.9 per cent, since the start of the year and 125.9 points (5.5 per cent) since the general election on June 11.

Brokers and fund managers remained in confident mood as they headed home last night, despite the drain on their funds by new issues and companies calling for extra cash. There was little evidence of new-time support for the next account, but most dealers expect the market to continue its record-breaking run in the weeks ahead. This should bode well for the British Airways Authority which makes its debut on July 28.

Support remained selective yesterday with most of it aimed at the alpha stocks. Oil

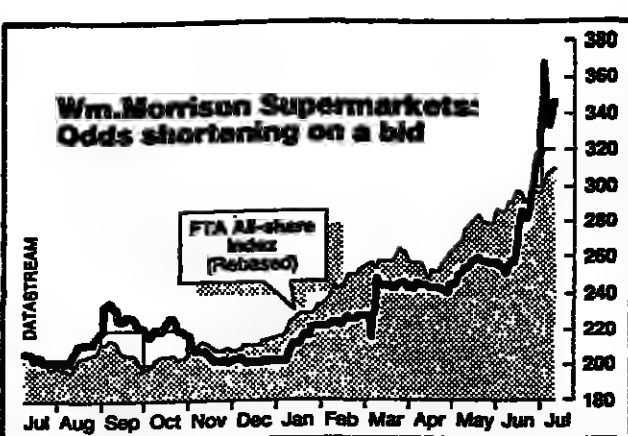
shares were also singled out for attention as the price of crude oil on the spot market breached the \$20-a-barrel level at one stage, helped by renewed tension in the Middle East. Oil experts now expect the price to stabilize at about this level. Barmah rose by 14p to 602p. Lasso, 8p to 352p and Ultramar, 15p to 274p.

Among the blue chips, BTR gained 13p to 344p on the news of a fund-raising exercise. There were also reports that Alexander, Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, has been active with calls in the Traded Options market forcing other market men to cover on June 11.

News that Sandi Arabia investors have bought a 5.3 per cent stake in Transamerica Corporation fuelled speculation of a full bid. Dealers pointed out that Transamerica owns 39 per cent of Sedgwick Group, the Lloyd's insurance broker. Sedgwick rose 11p to 242p.

their positions in the main market. Argyll Group firmed by 11p to 475p ahead of a meeting with institutions, arranged by Panmure Gordon, the broker, next week.

But Dixons shed 1p to 373p ahead of the full-year figures



next week. The market is looking for pretax profits of £104 million compared with £78 million last time.

Government securities remained dull on the back of sterling and the issue of an extra £500 million of Treasury, 3 per cent, 1992. Dealers said that the new stock had been pitched to attract high taxpayers. Elsewhere, prices ended with losses extending to 1.4p.

ASDA-MFI, which has attracted plenty of speculative interest lately, jumped by 23p to 222p, after touching 230p, on a turnover of 64 million shares, following the board's decision to put up the "For sale" notice on its MFI and Allied Carpets subsidiaries.

Rolls-Royce shares were showing no signs of a recovery yesterday after reacting recently to speculation that

Lufthansa will not use the V-2500 engine for its A-320. They closed 2p lower at 124p.

However, Greenwell Montagu, the broker, points out that Rolls-Royce still has a 30 per cent share in the consortium which manufactures the engine and that the shares are fundamentally cheap.

Yesterday's news that Rolls has received a firm, £150 million order from Quantas to equip four Boeing 747-400s with the RB211-524D40 engine — with an option on equipping a further 15 aircraft for £500 million — failed to make any impact.

The number of Rolls shares held by foreign investors is 5 per cent of the total in issue.

British stood out in a firm oil sector yesterday with a rise of 8p to a year's high of 351p. The shares have been enjoying something of a re-rating among analysts recently and there is talk that British may have some good news next week about a new North Sea venture.

After an early rise of 22p to 204p, dealings in Thomas Marshall (Londex), a manufacturer of fireproof safes, were suspended at the company's request, pending an announcement.

After hours, it was an

announced that Hepworth Ceramics was launching an agreed bid for the company.

Merchant banks remained on the boil with dealers bracing themselves for a 700p-plus bid for Hill Samuel from the Union Bank of Switzerland. Hill Samuel added another 12p — making a two-day surge of 171p — to 688p. Others in the sector also went better as speculators bet on the next possible bid target.

County NatWest, the broker, has chosen Kleinwort Benson and Morgan Grenfell as the two most likely to attract a predator, both being in need of increased capital resources to push them into the premier league of securities houses.

Kleinwort jumped by 33p to 631p and Morgan by 30p to 449p. Meanwhile, a rise of 16p to 510p in Mercury International — soon to change its name to SG Warburg — was accompanied by stories of a possible bid from Shell.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board continued to go from strength to strength, rising by another 43p to 250p, taking its gain this week to 134p. Investors have been excited by the proposed £300 million development of Liverpool's northern docks by the Erill Holdings property group.

## WALL STREET

## Blue chips take Dow lower in early trade

New York (Agencies) — Shares slipped in early trading yesterday after an opening gain, with high technology and blue chips leading the way down. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 3 points to 2,448.21 and declining issues took the lead from rising ones.

Phillips-Van Heusen jumped 4 to 233. It has received an unsolicited merger proposal.

On Thursday, the Dow average closed 12.76 lower at 2,451.21 after Wednesday's 14-point advance to a record.

Concern about a resurgence

in inflation is diminishing after the second consecutive small monthly increase in US producer prices. June producer prices rose by 0.2 per cent — considerably below the consensus estimate of a 0.5 per cent rise. This increase followed a smaller-than-expected 0.3 per cent increase in May.

Economists were encouraged by the fact that outside the volatile food and energy areas, producer prices were rising at low rates.

Excluding food and energy, the June index was up by 0.1 per cent after falling by 0.1 per cent in May.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
July 10	July 10		
New York 1.6110-1.6145	1.6135-1.6145	0.32-0.33p	0.33-0.34p
London 2.289-2.2935	2.292-2.2935	0.14-0.14p	0.14-0.14p
Amsterdams 3.448-3.4525	3.448-3.4525	1p-1p	1p-1p
Brussels 61.57-61.77	61.57-61.77	15-15p	15-15p
Copenhagen 11.265-11.2697	11.265-11.2697	0.2-0.2p	0.2-0.2p
Dublin 1.050-1.1121	1.050-1.1105	1p-1p	1p-1p
Frankfurt 2.690-2.698	2.690-2.698	1p-1p	1p-1p
Geneva 2.70-2.703	2.70-2.703	1p-1p	1p-1p
Madrid 204.92-205.38	205.08-205.38	10p-10p	10p-10p
Paris 214.48-215.39	215.32-215.39	1p-1p	1p-1p
Rome 10.621-10.621	10.621-10.621	1p-1p	1p-1p
Stockholm 9.827-9.8271	9.827-9.8271	1p-1p	1p-1p
Tokyo 242.75-243.55	242.75-243.55	1p-1p	1p-1p
Venice 20.77-20.94	20.77-20.94	1p-1p	1p-1p
Zurich 2.478-2.4879	2.478-2.4879	1p-1p	1p-1p

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 72.8 (day's range 72.7-72.9).

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates	Market rates
July 10	July 10
Argentina austral	2.9740-2.9875
Australia dollar	2.2715-2.2725
Bahian dollar	0.655-0.6555
Barbados dollar	1.212-1.2125
Cayman dollar	0.714-0.7145
Cyprus pound	1.7125-1.7125
Finland markka	1.2400-1.2400
Greece drachma	222.30-222.30
Hong Kong dollar	12.50-12.50
India rupee	20.55-21.05
Kuwait dinar	4.655-4.6555
Malaysia dollar	0.655-0.6555
Mexico peso	21.90-22.40
New Zealand dollar	2.630-2.6305
Saudi Arabia riyal	3.63-3.63
Singapore dollar	2.430-2.4347
S. Africa rand (m)	3.342-3.342
S. Africa rand (c)	3.310-3.310
U.A.E. dirham	3.675-3.675
Lloyds Bank	3.675-3.675

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exel.

## ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	2,600	English China	385	Rank Hovis	926
Amstar	9,500	Fisons	3,100	Reckitt	410
Argyll	1,200	Gen Academi	153	Reckitt	410
ASDA-MFI	84,000	GECC	3,200	Reed Int	1,800
Bet	700	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
BET	9,500	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
BTR	3,000	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
BAT	3,900	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Bancards	1,000	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Bass	350	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Beecham	1,800	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Blue Circle	454	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
BPC	614	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Boots	1,700	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
BPP Ind	322	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
BPC	782	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Br Aerospace	2,000	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Br Airways	1,000	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Br Comm	218	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Br Gas	21,000	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Br Petroleum	3,400	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Br Telecom	5,800	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Brax	810	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Bund	7,400	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Burton	1,800	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Cable & Wireless	2,100	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Cadbury Schweppes	700	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Coats Viscella	914	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Com Union	1,200	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Cons Goldfields	1,500	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Consolidated	1,500	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Courtaulds	338	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Dec Corp	5,800	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800
Dixons	4,000	Globe IT	1,200	Reed Int	1,800

Stock prices on page 27

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Starting	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Sep 87	90.78	90.78	90.78	90.78	4518
Dec 87	90.78	90.78	90.68	90.78	786
Mar 88	90.68	90.78	90.65	90.74	105
Jun 88	90.64	90.78	90.65	90.74	90
Sep 88	90.58	90.58	90.58	90.53	2
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	90.33	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	90.08	0
Jun 89	NT	NT	NT	89.98	0
Previous day's total open interest 13002					
Three Month EuroCall					
Sep 87	92.77	92.86	92.74	92.83	3511
Dec 87	92.48	92.54	92.43	92.54	1578
Mar 88	92.27	92.36	92.26	92.32	195
Jun 88	92.08	92.10	92.08	92.11	131
Sep 88	91.89	91.88	91.87	91.91	17
Dec 88	91.67	91.69	91.67	91.75	17
Mar 89	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.53	5
Jun 89	91.33	91.38	91.33	91.37	17
Previous day's total open interest 27864					
US Treasury Bond					
Sep 87	91.23	92.04	91.18	91.29	6384
Dec 87	91.22	---	---	90.91	0
Mar 88	NT	---	---	---	0
Previous day's total open interest 4889					
Short Call					
Sep 87	NT	---	---	---	0
Dec 87	NT	---	---	---	0
Mar 88	NT	---	---	---	0
Previous day's total open interest 0					
Long Call					
Sep 87	123.08	123.20	123.25	123.20	24917
Dec 87	NT	---	---	123.15	0
Mar 88	NT	---	---	---	0
Jun 88	NT	---	---	---	0
Sep 88	NT	---	---	---	0
Previous day's total open interest 20996					
PT-98 100					
Sep 87	240.00	242.00	240.00	241.85	1866
Dec 87	NT	---	---	246.18	0
Previous day's total open interest 5017					
RECENT ISSUES					
EQUITIES			RIGHTS ISSUES		



**chips take Dow**  
**r in early trade**

inflation is disinflationary after the second consecutive monthly increase in the producer price index. The consensus estimate of a 0.3 per cent rise in the index was a smaller-than-expected 0.2 per cent rise. This increase was the result of a 0.3 per cent rise in the volatile food and energy prices, while other prices rose at low rates.

Excluding food and energy, the June index was up by 0.1 per cent after falling by 0.1 per cent in May.

# Frogmore Estates to raise £17.4m

By Joe Joseph

Frogmore Estates is raising £17.4 million from shareholders to help finance the latest stage of its transition from a housebuilder to a more actively managed property investment and trading company.

The money will be used to reduce borrowings incurred when Frogmore recently bought two freehold buildings in the Holborn area of London for £15.4 million.

It will also pay for a portfolio of six office properties in and around London that Frogmore has taken on for £8.7 million, although it is only holding on to three of these blocks, worth about £5.35 million.

The company is issuing 5.64 million new shares via a one-for-six rights issue at 320p a share. The issue has been underwritten.

Frogmore, which reported a rise of nearly 60 per cent in half-year pre-tax profits to £8.2 million, said its portfolio of British properties is valued at £126 million, pegging net assets at not less than 279p a share. The directors reckon they will be able to afford a final dividend of 6.468p which would make 8.608p overall compared with last year's 7.61p.

# Norton Opax seeks £45.8m to pay for acquisitions in US

By Cliff Feltham

Norton Opax, the fast-expanding specialist printing and publishing group, yesterday asked its shareholders to put up £45.8 million to pay for future acquisitions.

Mr Richard Hanwell, the chief executive, said: "We are not raising the money to put it in the bank. We have a number of targets lined up."

Norton, which recently won control of McCorquodale, the printer, for £155 million after a protracted battle, wants to boost its overseas profits from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

Mr Hanwell said: "We have lined up a number of companies in the United States. They are in the security printing business."

Following the takeover of McCorquodale, the group is now one of the largest British-based printing groups with operations in Europe, South America, the Far East, Australia and the United States.

The company has also appointed two new non-executive directors to the board. They are Mr Ron Chilton, former chairman and chief executive of IPC Magazines, and Mr Ian McIntosh, managing director and head of corporate finance at Samuel Montagu since 1981.

Norton is keen to spend heavily on improving its printing facilities in Britain.

The money is being raised through a one-for-three rights issue of 5.25 per cent convertible preference shares at par. Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has said he plans to take up his rights in respect of his 22.5 per cent shareholding.

Norton can expect to have more cash in its kitty through a number of imminent disposals. Mr Hanwell said it was discussing the sale of its legal stationery company, Dennis



Joining the board: Ron Chilton, left, and Ian McIntosh

# Benlox bid for Nolton 'backed by 46%'

By Our City Staff

Benlox, the civil engineering and investment group which two weeks ago launched an unwelcome £15.6 million takeover bid for Nolton, claims it is already almost home and dry with its bid for the mini-conglomerate.

Shareholders in Nolton, which has interests ranging from property to packaging, should today receive formal details from Benlox seeking their backing for the bid.

But Benlox says it can already speak for 46 per cent of Nolton's issued share capital after marshalling the support of several of Nolton's institutional shareholders, including Lazard Investors and Scottish Legal Life.

Benlox's share swap offer and its 61p cash alternative were again rejected yesterday by Nolton's directors, who feel that the company has a strategy of its own and that the bid undervalues Nolton.

A bid had been likely since Mr Andrew Millar, Nolton's former chairman, left the board in January to take over the reins at Benlox.

Mr Millar, who has a 16.4 per cent stake in Nolton, plans to have off all except the housebuilding and construction activities of the Nolton group.

# Midland must await City's forgiveness

In two weeks' time, Midland Bank chairman Sir Kit McMahon should be announcing to the world that his bank has lost about £700 million in the first half of 1987. He will of course do no such thing. In fact he will say that Midland has experienced a satisfactory start to 1987 and that profits are comfortably ahead at £240 million or thereabouts.

The difference between those two figures is staggeringly large and arises entirely from Midland's decision to rethink its accounting approach on Third World debt provision. It will strike many as a matter for regret that the bank has chosen an accounting treatment which both lacks rigour and at the same time flatters the published pretax profit at a moment when shareholders would welcome candour, however unpalatable, from the management.

The bank is inviting its non-specialist customers to believe that the painful surgery undertaken this week in providing an extra £916 million against potential bad debts on the sovereign loan book has no direct consequences whatever. Yet any plain man's guide would have to paint a sad and sorry picture of a once great bank and the wounds it has been forced to inflict upon itself in order to repair damage caused by ill-judged lending decisions. Midland's operating base has shrivelled back to England and Wales through the sale of Clydesdale and the Irish subsidiaries. In the loss of Clydesdale in particular, Midland is relinquishing a potentially high quality income stream. Good money put up by shareholders will be swallowed up instantly in the process of provisioning for debts which on any hard appraisal are never likely to be repaid. Midland may call them provisions, but the betting is that they will prove to be write-offs in the fullness of time. Finally, the rights issue - a deep discounted one-for-one exercise - is large and will dilute earnings appreciably.

But what kind of accounting approach is it that allows recorded profits to remain unscathed while this painful adjustment is taking place? And what quality of profits are these profits anyway? Midland has chosen to describe the £916 million of provisions made this week as extraordinary items and therefore under the present accounting conventions they may be taken below the line without affecting profits or earnings per share. Yet there is nothing extraordinary about the provisions other than the size of them. They are expected losses which will be incurred in the course of the group's normal business, banking. Unless Sir Kit knows something that he is not telling us, the provisions do not relate to discontinued activities - how can a bank discontinue lending? Had they passed this test, which is of significance in terms of which accounting convention should be followed, Midland might have just been able to claim credibly that the provisions could indeed be called extraordinary.

Sir Kit is of course to be applauded for his determination to tackle the obvious nonsense under which only a minuscule portion of sovereign debts was provided against while Citicorp and NatWest, both with similar Third World loan profiles, considered 25 per cent to 30 per cent a prudent level of provisioning.

Even after the exercise, which has strained the limits of what was possible for Midland, the bank's balance sheet is still by no means as shipshape as those of its rivals. NatWest decided on its £466 million of extra provisions from a position of strength and its equity-to-asset ratio, a key test of capital adequacy these days, is almost the strongest in the sector. Lloyds is a little higher and even Barclays, reputedly next in line for a refinancing exercise of its own sports a ratio of over 5 per cent. Midland's 4.7 per cent remains the weakest.

Just how much better off the other big four banks are should be apparent when Barclays and Lloyds reveal their own interim profits at the end of the month. To make provisions against 30 per cent of its Third World debt, Barclays would need extra provisions of roughly £450 million. But unlike Midland, even if Barclays used a rigorous accounting treatment it would still be able to show a profit for the full year. It would be about £550 million, way down on the £895 million of last year, but healthy nonetheless. Lloyds has traditionally been a substantial lender to developing nations, Latin America in particular. To bring its own provisions up to the 30 per cent benchmark, which now passes for best practice in the banking world, Lloyds would need to add about £850 million. That would probably throw it into the red for 1987, but nothing like as severely as Midland if it chose to use a more conventional accounting approach.

Oddly enough, Midland shares rose in response to a cheerless package which offers shareholders nothing much to bite on for the next year or two. The bank stands clothed in sackcloth and ashes having made amends for the flawed thinking which first brought Crocker aboard. But it will be some time before the City's forgiveness is complete.

John Bell  
City Editor

# Consortium lifts Amber Day stake

By Our City Staff

Mr Irvine Sellar, the former high street fashion entrepreneur, is fronting a consortium which is pumping £2 million into Amber Day Holdings, the clothing manufacturer and importer.

The consortium is lifting its stake from 7.45 per cent to just under 30 per cent by acquiring new shares at 42.5p each. This is well below the market price of the shares which have risen strongly on rumours that a deal was likely. They rose a further 8p yesterday to 96p.

Last night Mr Sellar, who sold his Mares chain of shops in 1981, said there were no plans to bid for the rest of Amber Day. The company has strong links with the retail trade through a 23 per cent shareholding in John Kent, the USM-quoted menswear group. He said it was hoped to find other businesses which could be injected into the group.

The other members of the consortium involved in the deal are Mr Irving Aronson,

# MEPs seek EEC talks on tin debt

By Colla Narbrough

The European Parliament has called on the EEC and all other parties concerned with the insolvent International Tin Council to start out-of-court negotiations with the ITC's creditors over settlement of its huge debts.

In plenary session, the Strasbourg-based assembly yesterday voted 82 to 0, with one abstention, to adopt a report urging talks with the metal brokers and banks that suffered multi-million pound losses when the ITC buffer stock ran out of funds in October 1985, triggering the world tin crisis.

The report, drawn up by the Parliament's Committee for External Economic Relations, expresses regret over the legal proceedings the creditors have initiated against the EEC and 22 states which are signatories to the Sixth International Tin Agreement.

A group of West German, Spanish and Greek MEPs called on the European Commission to take the initiative in seeking an out-of-court

# Vancouver Mandarin Hotel sold

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Hong Kong Land is selling its loss-making Mandarin Hotel in Vancouver, Canada.

The hotel has been in the red since it opened in May 1984, though it did manage an operating profit last year due to the Expo '86 trade fair.

Hong Kong Land is selling its interest in the hotel to its joint venture partners, Janwest Equities, for an undisclosed sum and writing off losses of HK\$195 million.

Mr David Gawler, Hong Kong Land's chief financial officer, said: "The hotel had been conceived and constructed during a period of high inflation and optimism for the hotel industry in Vancouver."

## Correction

MAI, the money broking and advertising group, has a 14.9 per cent interest in a new joint venture with Primesight and not, as suggested by *The Times* yesterday, an interest in Primesight itself.

# Asda-MFI admits its mistake and takes the tough way out

Recognizing one's mistakes is a great virtue. Many a company has soldiered on in a vain effort to make the best of a bad job. But not so Asda-MFI: it has chosen to cut and run.

Putting a business publicly up for sale can bring a higher price from an unknown source but may push the price down as purchasers take advantage of the seller's need to secure a deal swiftly.

Indeed the decision to divest businesses which provide a third of profits may prove a costly exercise. It will take time sensibly to reinvest the proceeds and in the meantime profits may suffer.

But MFI is clearly not pulling its weight and this appears to have triggered a change of strategy within Asda-MFI. Rather than be a broadly based retailer of food, carpets and furniture, it is to expand its superstore chain giving greater emphasis to the affluent south.

About 75 per cent of the Asda stores business is in food retailing with the balance in household, leisure, shoes and clothing.

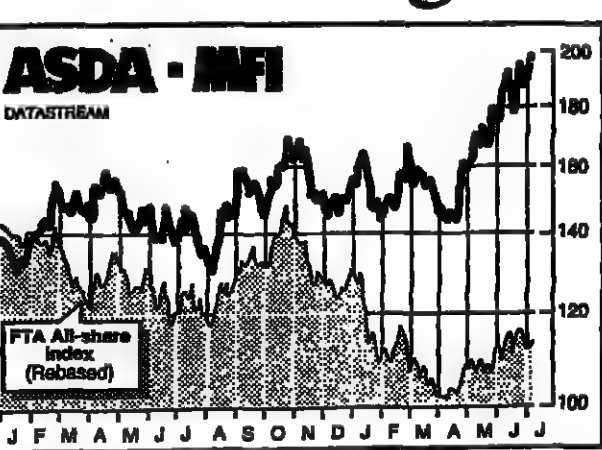
The outlook for food retailing is not now as dull as some pundits had been forecasting - hence the impressive growth from the Sainsburys and Tescos of this world. Asda-MFI believes it can exploit this growth market well into the 1990s.

Improving the quality and range of produce together with opening new stores and developing a nationwide distribution network will contribute to higher profits.

The beginnings of this strategy is showing through. Asda operating profits in 1986-87 were 21 per cent ahead and margins widened. But with sales growing by 4 per cent and the rate of increase from refurbishments and new openings below the industry average there is room for improvement.

In time, when the group is faced with a saturated food retailing market, it may, ironically, look again to broaden its business.

Nevertheless, the MFI episode was not all bad. Asda-



MFI gained experienced management which enhanced the existing team. Now the Asda business is more sharply focused and is conscious of the need to meet the competition head on.

As for MFI, it may flourish in a different fold or even return to independence. Whatever, it was not best suited to be coupled with another cash hungry business which did not have limitless management resources to give the attention needed to redirect it.

Assuming 1987-88 profits of £217 million Asda shares are on a p/e of 19. They rose sharply on yesterday's news but look set to be indifferent performers until sale details are finalized.

## Robert Fleming

It is not easy to discern from that masterpiece of non-disclosure, its annual report and accounts, where Robert Fleming Holdings makes its money. All we are told is that profits after tax and transfers to inner reserves rose 36 per cent to £30 million.

The only other snippet is that its 64 per cent share in Save and Prosper contributed £6.2 million and its 50 per cent share in Jardine Fleming £8.9 million, nearly double last year in both cases.

Of the other £15 million of profits, only half came from investment management, a fair achievement for a firm that was still a traditional investment manager and nothing else 20 years ago.

the foreign banks start competing in earnest.

Being in only a few specialist areas, Fleming will not be talking to the clients on such a regular basis as its stronger brethren who are covering the waterfront. And in a bear market, Fleming may not have enough of a presence to be able to hang on.

Fleming's securities ambitions will be doomed unless it continues in market-making. There is no niche for it as a commission-only broker - its well publicized stance against commission-bearing transactions will see to that.

It has no plans to withdraw from market-making. Perhaps it hopes it will just melt away.

## Economic Forestry Group

Deals in Britain's first quoted forestry company will start on Monday when Economic Forestry Group comes to the Unlisted Securities Market with a price tag of £14 million.

The 100p shares were eagerly snapped up by institutions whose only exposure in forestry until now has been to invest directly in the growing trees - a very illiquid investment.

EFG does not itself own plantations. Rather it derives 80 per cent of its profits (just over £1 million last year) from planting and maintaining forests for investors.

New planting is the life blood of this company. It has been planting at a stable rate of just over 5,000 hectares a year for the last couple of years, approximately 20 per cent of all private sector planting.

With government support, EFG hopes to step up the rate of planting. It is vulnerable, however, to any drop in the higher tax rates, as the main incentive to forestry is tax relief to investors.

The acquisition of Bone Brothers, the garden centre business, helps to spread risk.

## +88.8% IN 12 MONTHS

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The signs are that this is set to continue, giving outstanding opportunities for new and existing investors in the fund. Our managers predict that increased competition in the mortgage market and the expectation of further falls in interest rates will boost the value of shares in the sector while booming rents in the City of London are rapidly increasing the value of property portfolios.

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chip' finance and property shares to achieve consistent long term growth. The remainder is more actively invested to take advantage of the many exciting opportunities within the sector.

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\*Offer to end 1st July 1987. SOURCE: ORALSTATISTICS

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Address.....

Postcode.....

Signature..... T117

Joint applicants must all sign and attach their names and addresses separately.



[illegible]



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## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Strong end to account

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 29. Dealings ended yesterday. Contango day Monday. Settlement day July 20.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24.)

Portfolio  
-Gold-

From your portfolio card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a loser, you must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Birmingham Mint	Industrials A-D	
2	Becham (a)	Industrials A-D	
3	Metals Close	Industrials A-D	
4	Rockwell (I) Ltd	Industrials A-D	
5	AAF Inv	Industrials A-D	
6	Gumstall (a)	Industrials A-D	
7	Scapa	Industrials A-D	
8	Fitch Design	Industrials A-D	
9	Falcon	Industrials A-D	
10	Br Syphon	Industrials A-D	
11	Beaton Clark	Industrials A-D	
12	AIM	Industrials A-D	
13	Meyer Int	Industrials A-D	
14	Boose Massim	Industrials A-D	
15	Molins	Industrials A-D	
16	Harrison Ind	Industrials A-D	
17	Parker Knoll 'A'	Industrials A-D	
18	WCRS	Industrials A-D	
19	IMI	Industrials A-D	
20	Imry Int	Industrials A-D	
21	Peatland Ind	Industrials A-D	
22	Blue Circle	Industrials A-D	
23	Alfred Irish	Industrials A-D	
24	Stag Furniture	Industrials A-D	
25	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials A-D	
26	Howden	Industrials A-D	
27	Williams Higgs	Industrials A-D	
28	Vale Cato	Industrials A-D	
29	Scott & New (a)	Industrials A-D	
30	Wilson (Connolly)	Industrials A-D	
31	Scott Heritable	Industrials A-D	
32	Molt Lloyd	Industrials A-D	
33	Simon Eng	Industrials A-D	
34	Allied Colloids	Industrials A-D	
35	Hardanger	Industrials A-D	
36	Hardy & Hanson	Industrials A-D	
37	Sears (a)	Industrials A-D	
38	Talbot	Industrials A-D	
39	Smith (WH) 'A'	Industrials A-D	
40	Ford Motor	Industrials A-D	
41	Eng China Clay (a)	Industrials A-D	
42	Satchell Speckman	Industrials A-D	
43	Hawson (a)	Industrials A-D	
44	Hawson (a)	Industrials A-D	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## UNDATED

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## INDEX-LINKED

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## THIRD MARKET

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## ELECTRICALS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## BREWERS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## BUILDINGS AND ROADS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## FINANCE AND LAND

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## FOODS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## CINEMAS AND TV

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## HOTELS AND CATERERS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## DRAPERY AND STORES

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## S-Z

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## INSURANCE

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## PROPERTY

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## MINING

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## SHIPPING

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## SHOES AND LEATHER

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
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## TEXTILES

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
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## TOBACCO

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

## OIL &amp; GAS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
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## TOBACCO

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## TOBACCO

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	0	0











# “THE SWEET SIMPLICITY OF THE THREE PER CENTS”

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

## SIMPLICITY

Many investors share with Disraeli a preference for simplicity. Low coupon, short-dated gilt edged stocks have always been a relatively attractive safe investment, especially for higher rate tax payers.

Many serious investors now face the imminent maturity of their "three per cents" on Tuesday, 14th July.

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## NEW ISSUES

Recent new issues of shares in well-known companies such as Virgin Group, Filofax, Sock Shop, Tie Rack, and Babygro have employed the full range of methods of bringing a company to the market. ALEXANDRA JACKSON explains

Some methods have proved more successful than others both from the companies' and from the investors' point of view. But what is good for the company is not necessarily good for the investor particularly if the latter is keen to make a fast buck in today's bull market.

Small investors have had a good run in the new issue market. The predominance of fixed-price offers has meant that an immediate profit may often be tucked away. This phenomenon is not in the company's interest as it encourages speculative trading and instils a false sense of security in the heart of the small investor.

However, changes to the Stock Exchange's new issue regulations now mean that more companies choose a placing rather than the traditional offer for sale.

This development has been greeted with cries of indignation from the small investors as a placing prevents them from acquiring shares at the issue price. That is, unless they are private clients of the issuing broker - a privilege reserved for those of considerable private means.

By choosing a particular method of coming to the market, a company has a unique opportunity to influence its shareholder mix. It can now also raise more money at less cost.

Institutional investors do not necessarily make "better" shareholders as competitive pressure to maximize returns often encourages fund managers to trade their portfolios.

Indeed, private shareholders are often irrationally attached to the company, holding shares year after year



Welcome aboard: Branson's Virgin flotation and many others popularized share-owning

regardless of the company's underlying performance.

But small shareholders often find it harder to finance fast-growing companies seeking extra funds in rights issues and the like. They are also perceived as less suitable candidates to stand by a company in real difficulties. If it chooses, an institutional fund can afford to take a longer-term view.

Before the rules changed, medium-sized companies

with well-known names were routine fixed-price offer-for-sale candidates, often wanting to give their strong customer base a piece of the action.

But Virgin Group's chairman Richard Branson paid the price for this. Because he chose to float his company by a tender offer, prospective shareholders set the price. Much of the possible premium was thus removed at the outset and the shares opened at a small discount.

BAA, about to be privatized, is using a partly paid tender in addition to a fixed-price offer so that investors can build up larger holdings. This innovation could, however, cause untold confusion.

Tie Rack and Sock Shop offered for sale but experienced huge oversubscriptions and saw their shares pushed to early premiums. This pleased shareholders, but was not really in the companies' longer-term interest.

Filofax and Babygro thwarted the private investor by choosing placings. This decision was criticized, given the prominence of their products, but cost and the wish to have an institutional shareholder base influenced their decision.

In the past stages were usually professional investors but now they can be found in every high street. The annual return on a building society account can look unexciting compared with the opening premium on a new issue.

On the one hand, companies with a loyal customer base should not be too quick to preclude them from applying for shares, while, on the other hand, small investors should not cry "foul" when a newly quoted company decides that an institutional base is more appropriate to its longer-term needs.

## Your buying guide

● **Offer for Sale:** A fixed-price offer where applicants subscribe at a predetermined price. It is the traditional route for bringing a new company to the market. Oversubscription can lead to the scaling-down of applications or balloting.

A tender price offer is used if pricing may be a problem, although this method is not popular with either professional advisers or investors. Applicants specify, above a minimum tender price, the price at or below which they are prepared to apply for shares. A "striking" price is agreed at the highest price at which sufficient applications have been received to cover the number of shares being offered.

● **Placing:** Shareholders are pre-selected and will typically be large institutional investors and private clients of the issuing broker. Market-makers are also allocated a percentage of the shares.

A recent change in Stock Exchange rules allows companies to increase the amount of money raised in a placing from £3 million to £15 million. Lower advertising and underwriting expenses mean that this costs less than an offer for sale.

● **Introduction:** This is used when a company with a wide shareholder base that is not raising new money comes to the market. No marketing of the shares is required and the costs are correspondingly lower.

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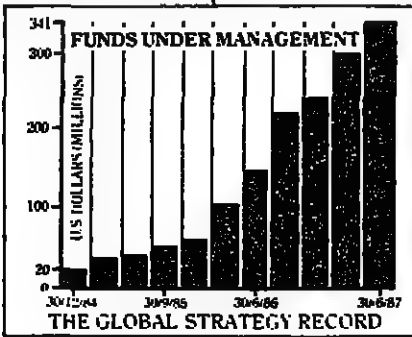
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aim to achieve a high level of income from an actively managed portfolio of international fixed interest securities. Their confidence is strengthened by the excellent long-term value represented by fixed interest securities worldwide. Both new funds give an investor access to exciting investment sectors which are normally the preserve of larger investors.



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## FAMILY MONEY/3

## The bloodhounds who seek clues to City secrets

Opinions of the City's investment analysts can have a crucial impact on the performance of your insurance policy or unit trust.

JOHN ROBERTS explains

Occasionally in stock market reports you may read of a share having risen sharply "following an analyst's visit" to the company.

Analysts are investment's backroom boffins. They have a large unseen influence in the stock market and on the conduct of companies themselves. Hogg Robinson's chairman Albert Wheway decided to split the company into its constituent parts of insurance and travel agency because the analysts said they did not know what to make of the odd mix.

Before Geoff Mulcahy became Woolworth's chief executive he summoned the retail analysts from major stockbroking firms and asked what they thought Woolworth should be doing. During last year's unsuccessful take-over bid for Allied Lyons, it later

important is to know the industry sector you cover and the people in it.

"So you read the overseas Press, for instance, because local subsidiaries are much more communicative and 50 per cent of the profits of British quoted companies come from overseas."

Mr Geering and his team are seeking evidence that the stock market's perception and expectations of a company are adrift from reality. "I'm looking for my analysts to take a stand against the market, rather than going along with the crowd," he says.

Sometimes the pursuit of that extra knowledge has raised doubts about whether the analysts might transgress the law against insider dealing. "There's no doubt that analysts get inside information," said Mr Geering, "but they must know they can't use it. However, it will be in the back of their mind when they're formulating views."

Some companies, acknowledging that the market dislikes surprises, practise a degree of news management by nudges and winks.

"A company won't actually tell you the figure but if you tell them what you have in mind and you're widely adrift they might emphasize the problems in a particular area they think you haven't taken sufficient account of," Mr Geering explains.

This dependence means few brokers will dare to publish openly a "bear circular" — an outright recommendation to sell a particular company's shares. Managements of such companies tend to take offence and become uncommunicative towards that particular broker.

But in today's bull market Mr Geering finds his analysts are too busy watching the day's events to do research in depth as they would wish. He and colleagues are at the office by 7.30am and rarely leave before 6pm, and then it is with papers to be studied at home.

Mr Geering says: "In this market people have not been looking critically at the figures. They have taken the quantity without looking at the quality of earnings. We're just beginning to see a change in that respect and the accounting abilities of the analysts are resurfacing."

In today's prospering stock market firms are not looking critically at their costs. When the market turns sour "there'll be blood on the floor", Mr Geering predicts.

## London Life keeps policy on commissions

London Life, the life assurance and pension group, has ruled out "for the foreseeable future" any departure from the policy of not paying commission to intermediaries. But the managing director John Evans admitted that he had considered the matter.

"It was one of several scenarios that we were obliged to look at under the Financial Services Act," he said. "At present we get about 6 per cent of our business from intermediaries, and we were obviously concerned about protecting that share."

"Most intermediaries who recommend us charge their clients a fee, although some are old-fashioned enough to regard it as all part of the service," Mr Evans defended the company's performance in 25-year endowment policies, which are widely used in the mortgage business. "We are not as high in the league table as we have been," he said. "But we are a conservative company and have actually put by a little bit to protect future bonuses. This market will not last for ever."

The Stock Exchange has launched a quarterly consumer guide that claims to enable investors to make comparisons between all the largest unit trusts currently available in the UK. The Unit Trust Investor, which is on sale at main newsagents and bookshops at £1.25, claims to compare unit trusts in a much more comprehensive way than other measurement services.

It does this not only by comparing investment performance but also by monitoring the extent of price changes among funds with similar investment aims. Funds are also

graded for their aggressiveness, that is, how strongly their prices have reacted to overall market movements. Also new out this week is the 1987-88 edition of Choosing Your Independent School, which contains up-to-date information on Britain's 1,370 top independent schools. The book includes advice on how to select a school, what questions parents should ask when they visit a school, and the various methods of paying fees. Choosing Your Independent School is available from bookshops at £1.50 or



from the Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG, at £2, including postage and packing.

Royal Life has produced a useful information pack entitled Buying Your Own Home. The pack is intended primarily for first-time buyers but will be of interest to all house-buyers.

It includes an explanation of the legal processes of house purchase, including differences between the English and Scottish systems. There is also information on different mortgage arrangements and a section on expenses such as legal and surveying fees, a

supply of change-of-address cards and adhesive labels for use on tea chests when moving.

The Buying Your Own Home pack is available free from Royal Life agents or directly from the Marketing Department, Old Hall Street, Liverpool L69 3HS (051-224 4023).

House prices in the UK are predicted to jump 15 per cent this year with a further rise of 13 to 15 per cent in 1988. So says the Henley Centre in its latest research commissioned exclusively for the Household Mortgage Corporation. The new figures represent a big increase on the Henley Centre's earlier forecast for HMC four months ago when the expectation was for house prices overall to increase by 9.2 per cent in 1987.

If the latest forecast materializes, the average price of a house in the UK would increase from £38,500 in 1986 to £44,200 at the end of this year, with a further leap to £50,800 by the close of 1988.

The main factor behind these forecasts is the continuing rapid growth in real incomes. However, the increase is also being fuelled by the continuing high levels of money available for house purchase. The Henley Centre forecasts total new mortgage lending to rise from £26,570 million last year to £32,700 in 1987 with a further increase to £36,740 million during 1988.

Stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie have launched a no-frills share-dealing service for private clients. Stock Trade is aimed mainly at professional investors who want to manage their own portfolio and who are likely to deal regularly in shareholdings in excess of £2,500. Investment advice is not available. The dealing commission is 1 per cent plus VAT, subject to a minimum of £25 and a maximum of £100 per deal.

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## First-time Europe venture with an umbrella



Gary Jones: UK ready

Abbey Life, Britain's second biggest unit-linked life assurance company, launches its first offshore fund on Tuesday. The fund is an open-ended investment company incorporated in Luxembourg.

The Abbey Global Investment Fund is an equity-based umbrella fund offering sub-fund choices to private investors in the UK and elsewhere. The choices will be in the main markets of the UK, Japan and the United States, as well as the Pacific Basin and continental Europe. There is also an international income and growth sub-fund, which Abbey will recommend to non-specialist investors.

The international income and growth sub-fund will invest in a mixture of shares, convertibles and bonds, with the aim of achieving an income yield of twice that of the FT Actuaries World Index.

Shares in all the sub-funds will be available in both bearer form and registered form. Switching is available between the sub-funds, and under UK tax laws switches will not attract a capital gains tax liability. Abbey intends to apply for distributor status - meaning that, provided it distributes at least 85 per cent of the fund's income in dividends every year, any share disposal or redemption by investors will be subject only to capital gains tax, not income tax.

The minimum initial investment is £1,000. Applications up to September 8 will

receive a bonus allocation. Charges are 5 per cent initial and 1 per cent annual.

An umbrella fund operates just like a unit trust - that is, investors' money is placed in a range of shares comprising the fund's assets. Investors are shareholders in a company rather than unitholders in a fund. It is called an umbrella fund because of the number of sub-fund options among which investors can switch.

Abbey regards this move as an important part of its strategy before implementation of the European UCITS Directive in 1989. The directive will allow a fund management group in any European Community nation to offer its funds to residents of any other member nation so long as it satisfies its own country's rules of marketing.

Abbey sees the target market for its Global Investment Fund as UK residents just as much as expatriates. It claims half the money in umbrella funds to date is from UK residents, and the Abbey director Gary Jones says UK investors are ready for more adventurous opportunities, particularly offshore. Although the fund will be quoted on the Luxembourg stock exchange the administration will be handled from Jersey.

Peter Gartland

Further details from Abbey Life Fund Managers (Jersey) Ltd, PO Box 252, 59-63 Bath Street, St Helier, Jersey, CI 0534 59833.

## FAMILY MONEY/4

## How the boss's profits could fix your pay



Lamont: "sign of success"



Lawson: a challenge

The Chancellor threw down a gauntlet to British management in the shape of profit-related pay (PRP) schemes as part of this year's Budget. Details have now been published in the summer Finance Bill, and once that becomes law, companies will have the chance to accept the challenge.

The proposal was first mentioned in the 1986 Budget and followed up in a consultative Green Paper in July last year. The response this time, from employers and others, was somewhat short on enthusiasm, but the Government has pressed on regardless.

The idea is that part of employees' pay should be linked to the profits produced by the activities of their work unit. This might replace a portion of existing salary, or be brought in instead of a pay increase.

The concept is not new - versions such as productivity bonuses have been around for some time. However, the Government is now introducing a new incentive by giving tax relief on part of PRP paid to private sector employees.

Two main advantages are claimed for PRP. First, employees would have a direct interest in the profitability of their company or work unit. Secondly, PRP gives a measure of wage flexibility in response to changing conditions in the market-place, which in turn the Chancellor hopes may help to ease unemployment.

In his Budget speech Nigel Lawson spoke warmly of PRP as "a tool... to overcome one of our biggest national handicaps - the nature and behaviour of our labour

market". He then challenged managements to adopt PRP, for the benefit of their company, their staff and even the country at large.

The sweetener, to encourage the take-up of the idea, is tax relief. The Green Paper last year suggested that this should be given on a quarter of PRP, but the current proposal is more generous.

No income tax will be charged on half an employee's PRP, up to the point where it amounts to one-fifth of his total income, including the PRP itself, or £3,000, whichever is less. All PRP, however, will be liable for National Insurance contributions in the usual way.

The tax relief will be administered through the normal PAYE system, effectively on a self-assessment basis. The employer will only need to certify the scheme and its annual operation to the Inland Revenue, and supply a report by an independent accountant at the end of every period.

Once the Finance Bill has passed through Parliament, employers will be able to register PRP schemes. The conditions for a scheme to qualify have been kept relatively simple to give companies some leeway to establish their own preferred format.

The rules may be simple, but the issues underlying PRP are more complex. It is not at all clear that schemes would, in practice, achieve the objectives outlined by Mr Lawson.

The theory is that PRP should help to smooth out cyclical variations in unemployment. In a slump, as profits fell, so pay would be reduced, and companies would be under less pressure to bring in redundancies.

Furthermore, the argument

**Flexible pay better than no pay at all**

runs, they may be more willing to take on additional staff in boom times, if they are confident that the extra labour will not have to be shed again in the next downturn.

The basis of the argument is that if a company hits a bad patch, it is better to cut pay than jobs - a policy of "let the pay take the strain". Flexible pay, it is said, is better than no pay at all.

However, employees may view the matter rather differently. Profits may be af-

ected by various factors outside the control of the company or its employees.

Movements in the exchange rate, for example, can have an adverse influence on export sales, or the price of imported raw materials. A bad year for profits due to these factors could cause disaffection among employees, who see their pay reduced through no fault of their own.

The point was taken up by Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in a conference organized earlier this year by the Industrial Participation Association (IPA). Mr Lamont argued that profits were the best indicator of commercial success, and hence of the ability to increase and sustain jobs.

Studies of existing profit-sharing schemes have indeed shown a tendency towards increased productivity. That by itself, though, is not enough to create new jobs if labour costs also rise, as could happen if workers seek a higher basic wage to compensate for the uncertainty of PRP.

A survey on PRP carried out by the IPA among its members, offers little comfort to the Chancellor. Few had any firm intention to introduce a qualifying scheme, and one-third were of the opinion that the idea would simply not work.

Bryan Stevens, director of IPA, was equally pessimistic, expressing "considerable doubts that PRP will actually be taken up in sufficiently large numbers to achieve the macro-economic effects for which the Government hopes". He felt that smaller businesses, where the workforce is already close to the decision-making process, should certainly consider setting up a scheme, but that it would have little application for larger companies. With multiple work units, the administration alone would be a formidable problem.

There is also a danger that companies may introduce PRP just to secure the tax relief for employees, treating it as a bonus rather than genuinely part of basic pay. If that were to become the norm, the Treasury could find itself out of pocket without any material benefit for the economy.

Liz Walkington

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## FAMILY MONEY/5

## Retiring with a good deal

## PENSIONS

You have just under six months in which to start one of the most tax-efficient investments currently available. **DANBY BLOCH and RAYMOND GODFREY** explain

On January 4, 1988, the Government will abolish the self-employed pension plan or retirement annuity, which so many people in non-pensionable employment, self-employment or partnership have used to provide for their retirement.

The replacement contract is the new-style personal pension plan introduced in the Finance Bill now going through Parliament. In one very important area at least, it looks as though the replacement is significantly less attractive than the original model. Under the new personal pension plan, the chances are that the tax-free lump sum would be substantially lower than under the old-style retirement annuity.

The new rules, contained in the Bill, were published last week and the tax-free lump sum will be limited to 25 per cent of the fund that has accumulated under the personal pension plan by retirement date.

This is a nice simple formula that anyone should be able to grasp easily. But the formula applying to retirement annuities normally gives a rather higher return. Essentially, this formula means that you get a tax-free lump sum of three times the remaining pension from the policy on maturity.

To make matters more complicated, the pension on which the lump sum is based is a notional one, basically representing the best pension

the policyholder could have got from the company. If he had asked for it to be paid monthly rather than annually or for a guaranteed period of 10 years or for his wife's life as well as his own or even if the pension grew year by year, this would not generally affect the size of the lump sum payable.

The formula under the retirement annuity may be a little obscure, but it does provide some attractive lump sum returns and the proportion of the fund payable as a tax-free lump sum increases the older you are at the time when you start taking the benefits under the policy.

What proportion of the fund would normally be payable under the retirement annuity formula?

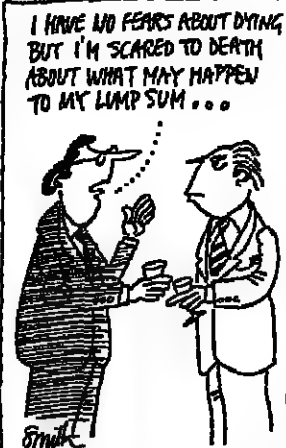
The answer is that at current annuity rates, the tax-free lump sum would be substantially higher than under the personal pension plan, especially at the older ages.

For example, the proportion of the fund that could be taken as a tax-free lump sum for a pension plan being cashed now might be roughly as follows:

Age	Men	Women
60	28%	26%
65	30%	27%
70	33%	30%
75	37%	33%

Of course, these figures are not fixed. The retirement annuity formula links the lump sum to annuity rates, which are in turn dependent on interest rates as well as the annuitant's age. If interest rates declined substantially, the eventual tax-free sum from a retirement annuity at the age of 60, for example, could in practice be much closer to the level under the new personal pension plan.

So it is possible that the difference in the ultimate tax-free lump sum could turn out



to be less than currently projected.

Nevertheless, the higher tax-free lump sum projected from the retirement annuity has two main benefits. First and foremost, it is always better to take as much of the benefit as possible under a retirement annuity in the form of a tax-free lump sum rather than the taxable pension annuity.

The lump sum is certain and tax-free and permits flexibility, in stark contrast to the annuity, which policyholders are forced to take with the balance of the fund.

But the implications for pension mortgages will be very important for many people. Under the new personal pension plan rules, with the lower projected lump sum, the monthly outlay to fund a pension mortgage will almost certainly be greater.

For example, Jim is aged 49 and is just starting a pension loan based on a retirement annuity with the Norwich Union. The annual pension premium, leaving aside interest, to fund a £30,000 mortgage over 25 years will be £71.59 per month. In contrast, based on a personal pension plan taken out after January 4 next year, the chances are that the pension contribution re-

quired by the lender will rise to £89.22 per month — an increase of nearly 25 per cent.

Even if you do not want to take out a pension mortgage now, it could be worth starting a retirement annuity before January in order to secure a contract that will provide the higher tax-free lump sum.

If you want to continue investing into a retirement annuity plan in future years, it would probably be safer to set up an annual premium contract for the purpose, even though the initial costs are often rather higher than with a single-premium contract.

Some insurance companies will allow an investor to top up existing single-premium policies with further one-off payments. The trouble is that unless there is some kind of contractual arrangement to pay future premiums, the Inland Revenue may well take the view that any premiums paid after January 4, 1988, are new contracts and should therefore come under the new-style personal pension plan regime.

It might even be a good idea to arrange for premium payments under the plan to increase year by year according to a fixed percentage or perhaps the index of prices or earnings.

Remember that for some people the Finance Bill also increases the level of premiums that can be paid this year into a retirement annuity or a personal pension plan, or a combination of the two. The new limits are based on your age at the beginning of the tax year, as well as your level of earnings. The new figures are as follows:

Age on April 6, 1987	% of earnings
50 or less	17.5%
51-55	20.0%
56-60	22.5%
61-75	27.5%

## Tender trap for BAA investors

## PRIVATIZATION

Investors planning to apply for shares in BAA, the airports management group headed by Sir Norman Payne, must remember that there is a tender trap built into the flotation.

The sale of 500 million shares in the company by the Government is a hybrid affair, unique in the annals of privatization.

Investors have two methods of applying for shares. The more straightforward method is through the fixed offer, which is priced at 245p a share. The minimum application is for 150 shares. This rises to 300 shares, 500, 750, 1,000 and then in multiples of 500 up to 5,000, when the minimum step becomes 1,000 shares. All applications must be lodged by 10am next Thursday.

The BAA issue follows previous practice, with the shares being paid for in instalments. The first £1 is to be paid for with the application, and the second tranche of £1.45 has to be made next May.

The amount of interest already being shown in the

issue, suggests that demand will be high, so potential investors can be expected to have their applications scaled down. However, the issuing house can be expected to do its best to ensure that the minimum amount remains intact.

Those wishing to be sure that they receive more shares can use the second method of applying for BAA, the tender issue. To meet the expected tender demand the Government has set aside 125 million of the 500 million shares that are being sold.

## Less sophisticated investors

## Approval from City professionals

Using the tender must be very careful to understand the system of application, and payment. This is the first time in the current round of privatizations that a tender has been included, so while professionals will be familiar with the method, it will be a new experience for small investors.

They must remember that there is no striking price, as is usually found in tenders. This means that whatever price an investor offers to pay for the

shares will be accepted. No maximum will be set by the Government. Bidding too high will condemn an investor to an instant paper loss when dealings start on July 28.

The minimum tender price is 245p, the same as the fixed price, and it is also payable in two instalments.

Investors who opt for this method must decide how much they are going to pay over the fixed price, and enter that amount on their application forms. The premium over the fixed price is then added to the first instalment of £1.

So anyone who wishes to tender, say, 260p a share, or 15p above the fixed price, will pay an initial £1.15, and the remaining £1.45 next May.

Applications under the tender must be submitted in multiples of 1,000 and prices can be varied by 1p a share.

So is the BAA flotation going to be another bonanza for small investors?

With institutions expected to tender at up to 270p, depending on market conditions, to ensure they obtain the holdings they want, a profit appears to be built into



Sir Norman: at the helm the issue for those applying under the fixed price.

City professionals see the company as a sound investment, but not one of the most exciting. The relatively low first instalment, means that the percentage profit on the partly paid shares could be quite high. If dealings start at 270p, there would be an instant 25p gain on every £1 instalment, or £37.50 on the minimum £150, though dealing costs could reduce that by around £15.

Ray Heath

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Minimum Investment \$500			
<b>3 YEAR SHARE</b>	<b>8.65%*</b> Net	<b>8.84%*</b> Net CAP	<b>12.11%*</b> Gross Equity dem
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# Home loans away from home

## PROPERTY

A variety of lenders are willing to finance properties in Spain and Portugal. DIANA WILDMAN advises

Most overseas property purchasers decide to buy their holiday home outright but an increasing choice of finance is becoming available.

From January 1 next year building societies will be able to use new powers to lend money to finance holiday homes in European Community member countries using the proposed purchase as collateral.

High street banks will still consider lending to purchase a leisure home abroad only as a normal banking proposition, with every application being judged on its own merits by the individual bank manager concerned.

Barclays, for instance, has a good mortgage scheme for second homes within the UK but, in line with Lloyds, National Westminster and

Midland, will not consider a loan using the overseas home as collateral.

Should a personal loan be granted, the bank will require a charge over the principal UK residence, stocks and shares, or a life policy.

Repayment will normally be over 15 years at anything between three and seven percentage points over base, and the amount of loan is subject to status.

For the past five years, the London branch of Banco de Bilbao has financed private property investment in Spain. In the main, finance is available for homes already built, although loans can be authorized in principle for in-

## Interest rate is four points over LIBOR

dividual purchases within new developments actually under construction.

Up to 60 per cent of the value of the property can be borrowed using the Spanish property as collateral, and loans for a minimum of

£5,000 are granted for a maximum of 10 years.

Current interest rates are four percentage points over London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) and a once-only commitment fee of 1 per cent of the value of the loan covers the bank's administrative cost.

Alomar Financial Service (01-222 8866) can arrange a loan based on a property in Spain or the Canary Islands using either the proposed overseas purchase or security offered in the UK as collateral.

In the Canary Islands the loan is arranged through the Caja de Ahorros de Canarias, and in Spain through Banco Santander.

The loan, which is up to two and a half times the applicant's salary, is granted to applicants between the ages of 25 and 55, up to 60 per cent of the value of the Spanish property, repayable over 10 years with an interest rate which is normally three points over Spanish prime rate.

The bank takes an arrangement commission of 0.5 per cent of the loan and Alomar's

administration fee is £350 or 2.5 per cent of the loan amount - whichever is the greater.

Again, this is all subject to status and Alomar can arrange all the legal formalities linked to both the purchase and the loan.

The Portuguese banks, in the main, still do not have the facilities to lend money to overseas buyers, although a spokesman for the London branch of Banco Totta y Acores says his bank hopes to have the authorization to do so soon.

In the meantime, the Bachmann Group of Guernsey (0481 23573), an independent trust company, has arranged, with the Guernsey

## Early repayment without penalty

branch of Barclays Bank, a mortgage scheme whereby Portuguese property is purchased by an offshore company of which the buyer is the beneficial owner.

The bank holds as security the shares in the company, as

well as a guarantee from the buyer.

The loans are for up to 50 per cent of the valuation and can be in any major currency, and interest rates are two points over base rate for sterling and two points over LIBOR for other currencies.

The loans are granted up to 20 years and subject to a break clause during the 10th year but early repayment can be made without penalty.

In addition, Barclays requires the property to be insured through the Lloyd's underwriters nominated by Bachmann.

Leslie Hilton, a director of Bachmann, says: "We charge a one-off inclusive fee of £650 for the formation of the company, and an annual managing fee of £500."

"The total commencement fee applicable to the bank loan averages out at around 2.5 per cent of the total value of the property and this includes the bank's commitment fee, surveying and legal costs."

"We also charge an additional 0.5 per cent per annum on the balance outstanding on the loan."



Spanish paradise: There are now many ways in which you can pay for that holiday retreat

# The cash that softens the saddest day

The majority of people will by now have realized that the universal £30 Death Grant is no more. It was abolished from April 6 this year.

Most of us prefer to believe fondly that aged parents will last for ever and that an unfortunate fatal accident involving a loved one "could never happen to me". All too often this false optimism is shattered, leaving relatives in the position of casting about for advice and information on what to do or where to go for help - especially financial help - when they are least able to cope.

It makes sense, therefore, at least to have a rough idea of what is available well in advance of possible crises, especially if you are on a low income.

The main problem, of course, is finance - particularly if the deceased have

made inadequate insurance provision themselves. In place of the Death Grant it is now possible, if you are on a low income, to apply to the Social Fund for help towards reasonable funeral costs.

If you are the person claiming, you must have taken responsibility for arranging the funeral and must be, or be the partner of, someone receiving either Supplementary or Housing Benefit, or Family Income Supplement. The deceased must, before his or her death, have been normally resident in the UK and the funeral must take place in this country.

You will normally be granted help only if you are unable to raise any money from the deceased's estate or, if by paying the funeral bill your own savings, or those of your immediate family, would fall below £500.

If a grant is made and money is left in the estate, the person looking after the deceased's affairs must repay the money to the Social Fund.

However widows, for example, need not worry. A house or personal items left by a man to his widow, or by a woman

## You do not have to sell your home

to her husband, or personal items left to other relatives are not included for these purposes in the estate. In other words, the Social Fund would not force you to sell a home or sentimental goods in order to repay the grant.

The funeral payment, or grant, from the Social Fund will cover the cost of an ordinary coffin, transport for the coffin and bearers and one additional car, any necessary

death certificates - though not extra copies - and funeral directors' fees.

Prospective claimants would be well advised to present at least one quote from an undertaker when applying to the Social Fund.

Payment will also be made to cover simple cremation or burial fees, including fees for a minister and organist. Note also that up to £75 extra may be available to meet additional expenses arising as a result of the dead person's particular religious faith.

If people die away from home but within the UK, extra money can be granted to meet the cost of bringing them back home.

Finally, a grant can include a payment to cover the reasonable cost of flowers from you, as well as travel expenses incurred for one return jour-

ney made either to arrange or to attend the funeral.

Payment from the Social Fund is not available to meet costs arising from private burial plots, memorials or newspaper announcements.

Once the Social Fund officer has calculated how much the funeral grant should be, the following will be deducted:

- Any savings over £500 held by you or your immediate family.
- Any moneys left in the deceased's estate that can quickly be realized without the need for such formalities as probate or letters of administration having to be granted.
- Any moneys available under insurance policies, an occupational pension scheme, burial club or any other similar provision.

The Social Fund Officer can also deduct the value of any contribution made towards the funeral costs from a charity or from a relative. However, this applies only if the contribution is made towards any of the essential items for which the application to the Social Fund was made.

For example, if a charity provides extra money for a "special" as opposed to an "ordinary" coffin, this would not be deducted from the Social Fund grant. Similarly, if a relative offers to pay towards the cost of an extra car this should have no effect on the Social Fund payment.

As implied earlier, once probate has been completed, if money is left in the estate, the Social Fund can reclaim all or part of the grant.

Normally application for funeral expenses should be made within three months of the funeral date. Claims are made on Form SF100.

If a person dies in hospital and there are no relatives or friends to either arrange or meet the cost of a funeral, the health authority - actually the staff of the hospital in which the person died - will do so.

Similarly, local authorities have a duty under the 1984

## Arrangements to suit mourners' needs

Public Health etc Act to arrange burial or cremation of any person who has died within their area and for whom there is no liable relative who can make the necessary arrangements.

The funeral will often be held in the morning, when churches or crematoriums are at their least busy, although arrangements can be adjusted to suit the needs of non-labile relatives or friends so that they can attend if they wish.

Again, if the deceased leaves any estate, the cost of the funeral can be reclaimed from the legal representative who has charge of the estate.

## Charles Jackson

\* Form SF100 is available from your local DHSS office. The DHSS has also recently published a booklet called *Help When Someone Dies*, which includes information on widows' and widowers' benefits.

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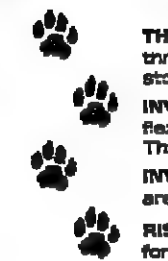
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## FAMILY MONEY/7

## The borrower's dilemma

## MORTGAGES

The recent cuts in mortgage rates by the Halifax and Abbey National building societies came as something of a surprise to other lenders. Nevertheless, it will probably not be too long before they are matched, as price differentials in this field have a habit of being short-lived.

Although there is fierce competition in the mortgage market, with more participants than ever before, the focus is less on costs than on the products themselves.

Of late, there has been a burst of enthusiasm for offering loans at a fixed rate of interest.

Both Lloyds and Midland banks launched schemes in March, followed by TSB and National Westminster. More recently Sun Alliance has introduced a facility in conjunction with a new venture, First Mortgage Securities Ltd.

The idea is not new — similar offerings were made last year by some banks. The usual practice is to earmark a set amount of money every time, closing the offer once it has all been lent out.

There certainly seems to be no shortage of custom. Lloyds increased its allocation from £300 million to £500 million in response to demand, and both that and Midland's £500 million were taken up in the space of about six weeks. TSB and NatWest, meanwhile, each lent £100 million in less than a month.

The details vary between schemes, but the mechanics are similar in every case. The interest rate is fixed at a certain level for a set period of time, between two and five

## Gambling on future rates is avoided

years. At the end of that, the borrower has two options. He can either switch to a normal variable rate, or continue with a fixed rate, at a new level determined at that point, for a further period.

Sun Alliance's scheme is being marketed with an added incentive. If the customer converts to a variable rate, it is guaranteed that the rate charged will be 0.25 per cent below the average of the top five building societies' home loan rates.

The level of the fixed rate is determined largely by the rate at which the lender can borrow on the money market, plus a profit margin. Loans are pre-funded in this way to avoid any gamble on future interest rates.

This, incidentally, is the main reason why building societies have not yet entered the market. They rely heavily on money from depositors to fund mortgages, so they must

HERE COMES THE FIXED-RATE MORTGAGE KING — MOANS LIKE MAD WHEN THE RATE GOES DOWN, LAUGHS LIKE A DRAIN WHEN IT GOES UP...



match the interest rate they charge with the investment rate they pay out.

Indeed, as Stuart Gowans, of the Abbey National, pointed out, a variable rate mortgage rate is a prime contributor to a society's financial health, as it can readily be increased if profit margins are squeezed. Nevertheless, he believes that fixed-rate mortgages will be offered by some building societies before long.

Another criterion for setting the rate is that it must be attractive to customers, which in turn will depend on the length of the fixed rate period and the likely trend of interest rates during that time.

Lloyds and Midland settled on a figure of 10.2 per cent, fixed for three years, while TSB and NatWest plumped for 9.9 per cent over five years. Sun Alliance has the shortest fixed period, at just two years, and a rate of 10 per cent.

One consequence of pre-funding is that mortgages must be based on an endowment or pension contract. Because in this case the whole loan remains outstanding throughout the term, it can be matched to what has been borrowed. This is not true of a repayment mortgage, where part of the capital is repaid every month.

There is a further limitation, in that a new policy must usually be taken out through the lending company. TSB was especially restrictive, as loans were available only through the TSB Homebuyers Plan, set up by TSB Trust Company, and had to be backed by a unit-linked endowment plan written by TSB Life.

The reason was simple, as Kevin O'Neill explained: "Since we have our own insurance arm, why should we do things for anyone else?" NatWest, however, allowed

customers to continue an existing policy, if it was suitable. Sun Alliance has also relaxed its criteria on this point, and will accept a current contract for up to half the loan, provided that the balance is covered by one of its own plans.

Obviously, though, the lender prefers to write or arrange the insurance contract. The extra business or commission generated is desirable as a counterpoint to

## Increase could wreck a tight budget

what may be a lower profit margin than usual on the interest charged.

So what are the advantages of a fixed-rate mortgage? Chiefly, there is the certainty of what the cost can be. Many borrowers, particularly first-time buyers, stretch to their limits on a loan, and while a cut in the interest rate would be welcome, an increase could wreck a tight budget. A fixed rate can be a help in organizing one's finances at a time when every penny counts.

On the other hand, lenders will usually exercise some discretion with a variable rate.

Although they cannot guarantee to help out, most will be sympathetic when a higher interest rate causes difficulty, allowing the borrower to continue payments at the same level as before. Either the mortgage term can be suitably extended, or the extra interest due can be deferred until it can be better afforded.

Secondly, there is the possible gain if interest rates should rise. However, as a gamble, this would seem to be at long odds. The fixed rate is determined by a combination of the bank's view of the future and that of the money market, and that is quite a considerable weight of opinion to bet against.

## Portfolio Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 27).

Share	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Week
1	+4	+5	+3	+5	+4		
2	+4	+4	+6	+5	+3		
3	+3	+3	+7	+4	+3		
4	+5	+4	+7	+3	+2		
5	+2	+4	+4	+5	+3		
6	+6	+3	+7	+3	+2		
7	+3	+3	+5	+7	+2		
8	+5	+2	+7	+5	+2		
9	+3	+3	+5	+4	+2		
10	+5	+3	+3	+5	+6		
11	+6	+4	+6	+4	+1		
12	+3	+5	+3	+7	+5		
13	+8	+4	+8	+5	+4		
14	+6	+2	+7	+6	+3		
15	+9	+4	+5	+6	+2		
16	+5	+5	+7	+3	+5		
17	+2	+9	+3	+3	+5		
18	+3	+3	+8	+5	+2		
19	+5	+1	+7	+4	+2		
20	+3	+2	+6	+5	+3		
21	+5	+5	+3	+5	+3		
22	+7	+3	+7	+4	+3		
23	+2	+2	+4	+4	+1		
24	+2	+5	+4	+5	+5		
25	+5	+5	+6	+5	+5		
26	+3	+3	+8	+3	+3		
27	+4	+6	+2	+7	+3		
28	+5	+5	+5	+6	+1		
29	+6	+4	+7	+4	+3		
30	+7	+8	+8	+3	+2		
31	+2	+3	+5	+5	+1		
32	+3	+4	+7	+6	+4		
33	+8	+8	+7	+5	+4		
34	+5	+4	+4	+7	+3		
35	+5	+3	+6	+8	+3		
36	+4	+2	+6	+5	+4		
37	+5	+3	+7	+3	+2		
38	+4	+5	+5	+6	+2		
39	+2	+8	+3	+6	+6		
40	+6	+4	+8	+3	+5		
41	+3	+6	+3	+6	+6		
42	+2	+4	+5	+7	+1		
43	+6	+4	+6	+2	+3		
44	+2	+2	+7	+5	+2		

Moreover, if rates should fall, as seems to be the current trend, the borrower could soon be on the losing end. It is possible to switch back to a variable rate before the fixed period is over, but subject to a penalty, although NatWest would waive this if the mortgage remained with itself.

Lenders clearly feel there is a demand for the fixed-rate mortgage. Derek Wanless, director of personal banking services at NatWest, commented: "Customers are clearly very pleased with our fixed-rate services, and we shall be looking for similar opportunities in the future."

However, with another round of mortgage rate cuts apparently in the offing, borrowers may not be so keen just now to lock themselves into what might all too soon prove an expensive deal.

Liz Walkington

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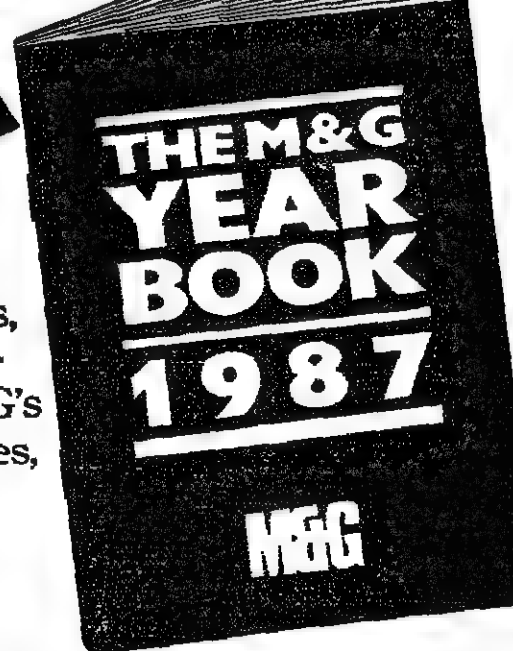
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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WORLD STUDENT GAMES: STANDARD AT SOME SPORTS AND LODGING BETTER THAN AT OLYMPICS

# Zagreb fun festival bends rules

From David Miller, Zagreb

Some of the female competitors being checked here at the fourteenth World Student Games are well under five feet tall and look no more than 13. The North Korean football team, the winners in 1985 in Kobe, are fielding their full national team which, earlier this year, was disqualified from the Olympic Games for failing to play a qualifying tie, claiming to be "joint hosts".

The official age limits set by the International University Students Federation (FISU) are 17 to 27. However, the term "student" has become as well known as infinitely flexible as the term "athlete". The World Student Games are clearly what many country wishes to make them. A Yugoslav press colleague alleges that the entire home football team have had their student eligibility "arranged".

British gymnasts such as Kathy Williams and Keith Langley, from Manchester Polytechnic and Birmingham University respectively, are entitled to be slightly pop-eyed with awe. The standard here is higher than at the past two, boycotted, Olympic Games. Yuri Korolyov, of the Soviet Union, twice world champion, has just won his third individual student gold medal, having come into the Soviet team only as reserve!

Roch Campana, the Belgian secretary general of FISU, a genial and relaxed man, remains philosophic about the discrepancies. "These Games are for people to enjoy themselves," he says. "If some nations want to bend the rules, to gain more prestige, that's up to them. If gymnasts are

presented with papers by their government providing them with a qualifying age, who are we to protest? We organize the Games to enable young people to have some fun."

The Student Games are the second largest sporting event after the Olympics, with some 5,500 competitors expected here from 107 nations; compared with 140 or so in Los Angeles. The hospitable Yugoslavs, who made such a success of the Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo, are keen to bump up the attendance statistics.

What is certainly superior, though, to any Olympic Games so far is the Village accommodation, spacious and comfortable, with only two to a bedroom and with en suite bathroom, compared with the hardboard-and-curtains dormitories of Kobe. It has set a standard for Sheffield, the optimistic candidates as host city for 1991.

The sumptuous food has the competitors worried about over-eating. The Yugoslavs, eminently health conscious, freeze a portion of each day's menu so that any stomach ailment epidemic can be traced and identified. Their meticulous medical attention has extended to a free supply of condoms: the friendly games, indeed.

British morale among the largest-ever team of 225, who have contributed a personal £250 a head to the trip, is high following the freestyle gold medal of Andrew Jameson, resident of Arizona State University.

This was only Jameson's second event, his preference being the 100 metres butterfly,



Golden wave: Victory salute from Andrew Jameson after winning the 100 metres freestyle

and although there are four or five notable absences in world ranking at these championships, the performance will have given him impetus for the European championships in Strasbourg.

The British football team, gathered from outposts of the Scottish second division and non-league English clubs, are busy battling for ninth place in a four-team play-off with Argentina, West Germany and Yugoslavia, the latter fielding their Olympic side of first division players. In a sea-saw match on Thursday night Britain beat the United States 3-2, but failed to reach the quarter-finals on account of their 2-1 defeat in the last minute by Algeria. They had played outstandingly to hold North Korea 2-2. Andy Rowland of North Staffs Polytechnic is the tournament's

joint leading scorer with four goals.

Yugoslavia failed to make the quarter-final, whistled by a 15,000 crowd, when they could only beat South Korea 2-1 in a tempestuous match in which they missed the second of two penalties awarded to them by the West German referee.

There is optimism that the rowing will provide reward. Britain is represented in the eights by London University, who won at Henley, as did the Imperial College coxed and coxed fours which are also both here. The British, in their almost perversely strict manner, are the truest to selection principles, and have omitted several fringe, part-time stu-

dents who might have strengthened their team.

The track and field records of the Student Games include such illustrious names as Menna, Schmid, Juntorena, Aouta and Fava, but it seems that the standard in this sport will be down this year, some of the better athletes being more profitably engaged elsewhere.

Chris McGeorge, the gold medal winner in Kobe at 1,500 metres, is reverting to 800 metres. A teenager when he won a medal in the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, his career has been hampered by injury, but at 23 he has room for optimism.

Liz Lynch, who was fourth in the 10,000 metres in Kobe, has withdrawn because her coach claimed there was too much pressure building on her prior to the world championships in Rome.

# Universities are given hope by Atherton and Crawley

By Andrew Longmore

The 1987 Universities' cricket season will be remembered more as the first year in which the Combined Universities team selected for the Benson and Hedges Cup was weak enough to include all universities than for the performances of either Oxford or Cambridge. That change did improve the combined side's performances markedly but it remains to be seen whether this change will extend to the first-class fixtures too.

Neither Oxford nor Cambridge had enough top-class players this year to make an impression on the counties in the three-day games. Though Oxford drew five of their six matches against the counties, that was due more to the appalling weather early in the season, while Cambridge lost three and drew four of their matches.

But there was light amid the gloom - notably Michael Atherton's maiden first-class century for Cambridge against Derbyshire, and a century of great composure by Mark



Atherton: maiden first-class century

Crawley for Oxford at Lord's. Both are in their first year, which augurs well for the next two years at least.

While aware that hopes should not be built up too fast, Graham Saville, the Cambridge coach, was highly impressed by Atherton, who will captain

Cambridge next year. "His temperament is so good. He must have batted longer than anyone and yet, though wickets were falling all around him, he never got flustered," he says.

In contrast, Ball, who had had such an impressive first season at Cambridge, was disappointingly inconsistent, his highest score until his 90 at Lord's being 49 against Surrey. The left-arm seamer, Scott, was the pick of the Cambridge bowlers, though it was the medium-pace Pointer and Perry, with three wickets each, who were responsible for the light blues' best day of the summer when Surrey were restricted to 258 for eight.

Oxford also struggled to take wickets. Firth's 14 being the highest, though at some cost. No one made a century against a county though next year's captain, Kilborn, made 150 against the Combined Services and this year's captain, Tooley, a century against MCC. Until his century at Lord's Crawley had also struggled and it was often left to the lower middle order, where Weale produced several sound innings, to repair early damage.

## UNIVERSITY AVERAGES

Oxford										Cambridge									
Batting										Batting									
M	I	No	R	50	100	300	Ave	SR	100	M	I	No	R	50	100	300	Ave	SR	100
M J Kilborn	8	12	2	294	59	-	23.40	45	M A Atherton	5	14	2	434	109	-	37.25	58	100	1
M A Crawley	7	10	1	283	140	1	25.22	44	J M Trenneman	4	6	2	131	39	-	32.75	44	100	1
R D Sanders	7	9	1	222	63	-	21.75	40	A M Hooper	3	4	0	112	89	-	28.00	44	100	1
S D Waite	6	9	0	192	76	-	21.33	39	D O Pridmore	3	4	0	112	89	-	28.00	44	100	1
R C Mould	6	10	1	189	51	-	21.00	38	D J Fall	9	14	1	254	67	-	19.52	44	100	1
R C Mould	6	9	2	188	54	-	20.88	38	C A Ball	8	12	0	257	50	-	18.35	44	100	1
A Hagan	5	4	0	52	37	-	13.00	39	R C Mould	3	4	0	60	36	-	15.75	44	100	1
R C Mould	7	4	0	22	8	-	7.56	39	R C Mould	8	11	3	104	33	-	13.00	44	100	1
A Hagan	4	7	0	49	33	-	7.00	39	S O Smith	4	7	1	64	26	-	9.00	44	100	1
R C Mould	6	7	1	33	14	-	5.50	39	S O Smith	1	1	0	48	12	-	5.75	44	100	1
T F M	7	7	0	17	4	-	2.42	39	T F M	2	4	0	11	11	-	2.83	44	100	1
J E S Cope	7	7	3	17	4	-	4.25	39	J E S Cope	2	4	0	11	5	-	2.75	44	100	1
Bowling										Bowling									
Over	Runs	Mans	Wkts	BB	SR	Ave				Over	Runs	Mans	Wkts	BB	SR	Ave			
P B Swales	172.4	42	500	12	4-63	-	41.56	A M Scott	250.2	50	44	10	8-7	1	41.33	-	-	-	-
I M Henderson	111	13	437	9	3-48	-	48.51	R J Haver	109	19	274	6	3-101	-	45.86	-	-	-	-
T F M	208.2	28	882	14	4-129	-	48.75	R J Haver	176	26	558	10	5-52	-	55.80	-	-	-	-
M A Crawley	161.1	32	516	6	2-30	-	85.00	G A Palmer	176	26	558	10	5-52	-	55.80	-	-	-	-
S D Waite	166	44	827	8	2-87	-	87.65	M A Atherton	100.5	8	314	1	1-14	-	62.80	-	-	-	-
* Compiled by Richard Liddwood																			

Compiled by Richard Liddock

# Full degree results from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne

<p><b>FACULTY OF EDUCATION</b></p> <p><b>BA Phil</b></p> <p><b>Educational Studies (New Regulations)</b></p> <p>Class I (Hons) BA Education: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class II (Hons) BA Education: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class III (Hons) BA Education: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class IV (Hons) BA Education: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class V (Hons) BA Education: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class VI (Hons) BA Education: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C 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<p><b>FACULTY OF ARTS</b></p> <p><b>BA Combined Studies</b></p> <p>Class I (Hons) BA Combined Studies: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class II (Hons) BA Combined Studies: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class III (Hons) BA Combined Studies: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class IV (Hons) BA Combined Studies: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class V (Hons) BA Combined Studies: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, T F M, J E S Cope</p> <p>Class VI (Hons) BA Combined Studies: M J Kilborn, M A Crawley, R D Sanders, S D Waite, R C Mould, A Hagan, R C Mould, A 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# Roche wins stage but yellow jersey is seized by Frenchman

From John Wilcockson, Futuroscope, Poitiers

In the hi-tech environment of this futuristic theme park near Poitiers, the Tour de France took on an old-fashioned look yesterday when the 10th stage time trial was turned into a test of survival rather than speed by the unaccountably long distance of 54.5 miles and a burning sun.

Stephen Roche, of Ireland, the race favourite, won the stage, but by only 42 seconds from Charly Mottet of France, who has displaced Erich Maechler from the yellow jersey.

"That was the hardest thing I've done in my life," said an exhausted Roche, whose performance moved him from 26th to sixth in the overall standings. "It was far too long a time trial to put in the Tour de France, and it favoured those who have not done too much work in the first week."

The endurance aspect of the event favoured those who usually perform well in the mountains, their lighter build giving them the advantages of the marathon runner. Mottet has these qualities, but he is also an acknowledged time trial expert.

More surprising were the remarkable performances of the specialist climbers, including Pedro Delgado, of Spain (10th, 2 mins 29 secs behind Roche).

Robert Millar, of Scotland (11th at 2:34) and Urs Zimmermann, of Switzerland (13th at 2:51).

The tall, angular Swiss Zimmermann, who was third in the 1986 Tour de France, has been ill for most of this year with a digestive complaint and he only started the tour against the advice of his doctor. But if he can continue building-up his fitness, he should be a precious ally for Roche, his team leader, in the mountains next week.

In contrast to the joy of Millar - who is now the Panasonic team's sole leader after beating his team mate Phil Anderson by almost eight minutes yesterday - there was despondency for other race favourites such as Laurent Fignon (4:15 secs behind Roche), Sean Kelly (5:01), Andy Hampsten (6:22), Luis Herrera (9:01) and Steve Bauer (12:27).

Among the other surprises were the fine performances by the young Dane, Jesper Skibby, who rode into third place, and Dag-Otto Lauritzen, the Olympic bronze medal winner from 1984, whose eighth place yesterday has moved him into fifth place overall.

The six members of the

British team, ANC-Halfords, did much better than they expected, with their best man, Steven Swart, taking 49th place, two seconds ahead of Sean Yates, the former British pursuit champion, who races for a French formation.

With one of the tour's toughest stages behind them, the 197 survivors face another difficult test today, with a finish on top of the 3,000ft high Monédières Hill in the Corrèze.

RESULTS (10th stage: 54.5 miles time trial, Futuroscope to Futuroscope): 1. S Roche (Ire), 58 mins 11 secs; 2. C Mottet (Fr), at 42 secs; 3. J Skibby (Den), 53.4; 4. M Maechler (Swi), 53.9; 5. U Zimmermann (Swi), 54.3; 6. J Skibby (Den), 54.7; 7. P Delgado (Spa), 55.2; 8. A Hampsten (Ned), 55.7; 9. S Kelly (Ire), 56.2; 10. L Fignon (Fra), 56.7; 11. R Millar (Sco), 57.2; 12. D O'Leary (Ire), 57.7; 13. S Kelly (Ire), 58.2; 14. S Kelly (Ire), 58.7; 15. S Kelly (Ire), 59.2; 16. S Kelly (Ire), 59.7; 17. S Kelly (Ire), 60.2; 18. S Kelly (Ire), 60.7; 19. S Kelly (Ire), 61.2; 20. S Kelly (Ire), 61.7; 21. S Kelly (Ire), 62.2; 22. S Kelly (Ire), 62.7; 23. S Kelly (Ire), 63.2; 24. S Kelly (Ire), 63.7; 25. S Kelly (Ire), 64.2; 26. S Kelly (Ire), 64.7; 27. S Kelly (Ire), 65.2; 28. S Kelly (Ire), 65.7; 29. S Kelly (Ire), 66.2; 30. S Kelly (Ire), 66.7; 31. S Kelly (Ire), 67.2; 32. S Kelly (Ire), 67.7; 33. S Kelly (Ire), 68.2; 34. S Kelly (Ire), 68.7; 35. S Kelly (Ire), 69.2; 36. 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